

An Account of the
G R O W T H
O F
P O P E R Y
A N D
Arbitrary Government
I N
E N G L A N D.

More Particularly, from the Long Prorogation of
November, 1675. Ending the 15th. of February,
1676, till the last Meeting of Parliament, the 16
of July 1677.

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AND

An account of the Growth of POPERY, and Arbitrary Government in *England*, &c.

THERE has now for divers Years, a design been carried on, to change the Lawful Government of *England* into an Absolute Tyranny, and to convert the established Protestant Religion into down-right Popery: than both which, nothing can be more destructive or contrary to the Interest and Happiness, to the Constitution and Being of the King and Kingdom.

For if first we consider the State, the Kings of *England* Rule not upon the same terms with those of our neighbour Nations, who having by force or by address usurped that due share which their People had in the Government, are now for some Ages in possession of an Arbitrary Power, (which yet no prescription can make Legal) and exercise it over their persons and estates in a most Tyrannical manner. But here the Subjects retain their proportion in the Legislature: the very meanest Commoner of *England* is represented in *Parliament*, and is a party to those Laws by which the Prince is sworn to Govern himself and his people. No money is to be levied but by the common consent. No man is for life, limb, goods, or liberty at the Sovereigns discretion: but we have the same Right (modestly understood) in our Propriety that the Prince hath in his Regality; and in all Cases where the King is concerned, we have our just remedy as against any private person of the neighbourhood, in the Courts of *Westminster Hall*, or in the High Court of *Parliament*. His very Prerogative is no more then what the Law has determined. His Broad Seal, which is the Legitimate stamp of his pleasure, yet is no longer currant, than upon the Tryal it is found to be Legal. He cannot commit any person by his particular warrant. He cannot himself be witness in any cause: the Ballance of publick Justice being so delicate, that not the hand only but even the breath of the

Prince would turn the scale. Nothing is left to the Kings will, but all is subjected to his Authority: by which means it follows that he can do no wrong, nor can he receive wrong, and a King of *England*, keeping to these measures, may without arrogance be said to remain the only Intelligent Ruler over a Rational People. In recompence therefore and acknowledgment of so good a Government under his influence, his Person is most sacred and inviolable; and whatsoever excesses are committed against so high a trust, nothing of them is imputed to him, as being free from the necessity or temptation, but his Ministers only are accountable for all and must answer it at their perills. He hath a vast Revenue constantly arising from the Hearth of the Householder, the Sweat of the Labourers, the Rent of the Farmer, the Industry of the Merchant, and consequently out of the estate of the Gentleman: a large competence to defray the ordinary expense of the Crown, and maintain its lustre. And if any extraordinary occasion happen, or be but with any probable decency pretended, the whole Land at whatsoever season of the year does yield him a plentiful Harvest. So forward are his Peoples affections to give even to superfluity, that a Forainer (or English man that hath been long abroad) would think they could neither will nor chuse, but that the asking of a supply, were a meer formality, it is so readily granted. He is the Fountain of all Honours, and has moreover the distribution of so many profitable Offices of the Household, of the Revenue, of State, of Law, of religion, of the Navy (and since his present *Majesties* time, of the Army) that it seems as if the Nation could scarce furnish honest men enow to supply all those employments. So that the Kings of *England* are in nothing inferiour to other Princes, save in being more abridged from injuring their own subjects: But have as large a field as any of external felicity, wherein to exercise their own Virtue and so reward and incourage it in others. In short, there is nothing that comes nearer in Government to the Divine Perfection, then where the Monarch, as with us,

enjoys a capacity of doing all the good imaginable to mankind, under a disability to all that is evil.

And as we are thus happy in the Constitution of our State. So are we yet more blessed in that of our Church, being free from the *Romish Yoke*, which so great a part of Christendom do yet draw and labour under, That *Papery* is such a thing as cannot, but for want of a word to express it, be called a *Religion*, nor is it to be mentioned with that civility which is otherwise decent to be used, in speaking of the differences of *Human Opinion* about *Divine Matters*. Were it either open *Judaism*, or plain *Tinkery*, or honest *Paganism*, there is yet a certain *Bona fides* in the most extravagant Belief, and the sincerity of an erroneous Profession may render it more pardonable; but this is a compound of all the three, an extract of whatsoever is most ridiculous and impious in them, incorporated with more peculiar absurdities of its own, in which those were deficient; and all this deliberately contrived, knowingly carried on by the bold imposture of *Priests* under the name of *Christianity*. The wisdom of this fifth *Religion*, this last and insolentest attempt upon the credulity of Mankind seems to me (though not ignorant otherwise of the times, degrees and methods of its progress) principally to have consisted in their owning the *Scriptures* to be *The Word of God*, and the *Rule of Faith and Manners*, but in prohibiting at the same time their common use, or the reading of them in *publick Churches* but in a *Latin Translation* to the vulgar; there being no better or more rational way to frustrate the very design of the great *Institutor* of *Christianity*, who first planted it by the extraordinary Gift of *Tongues*, then to forbid the use even of the ordinary Languages. For having thus a book which is universally avowed to be of *Divine Authority*, but sequestering it only into such hands as were intrusted in the cheat, they had the opportunity to vitiate, suppress or interpret to their own profit those *Records* by which the poor People hold their Salvation. And this necessary point being once gained, there was thence

forward nothing so monstrous to reason, so abhorring from *Morality*, or so contrary to *Scripture* which they might not in prudence adventure on. The Idolatry (for alas it is neither better nor worse) of adoring and praying to Saints and Angels, of worshipping Pictures, Images and Reliques, Incredible Miracles and palpable Fables to promote that veneration. The whole Liturgy and Worship of the Blessed Virgin. The saying of *Pater Nosters* and Creeds, to the honour of Saints, and of *Ave Mary's* too, not to her honour, but of others. The Publick Service, which they can spare to God among so many competitors, in an unknown tongue, and intangled with such Vestments, Consecrations, Exorcismes, Whisperings, Sprinklings, Censings, and Phantastical Rites, Gesticulations, and Removals, so unbecoming a Christian Office, that it represents rather the pranks and ceremonies of Juglers and Conjurers. The refusal of the Cup to the Laity. The necessity of the Priests intention to make any of their Sacraments effectual. Debarring their Clergy from marriage. Interdicting of meats. Auricular Confession and Absolution, as with them practised, Penances, Pilgrimages, Purgatory, and Prayer for the dead. But above all their other devices, that Transubstantiation solacism, whereby that glorified Body, which at the same time they allow to be in Heaven, is sold again and crucified dayly upon all the Altars of their Communion. For God indeed may now and then do a miracle, but a Romish Priest can, it seems, work in one moment a thousand Impossibilities. Thus by a new and antisciptural Belief, compiled of Terroures to the Phancy, Contradictions to Sense, and Impositions on the Understanding their Laity have turned Tenants for their Souls, and in consequence Tributary for their Estates to a more then omnipotent Priesthood.

I must indeed do them that right to avow that, out of an equitable consideration and recompense of so faithful a slavery, they have discharged the People from all other services and dependance, enfranchised them from all duty to

God

God or Man; inſomuch that their ſeverer and more learned Divines, their Governours of Conſcience, have ſo well inſtruted them in all the arts of *Circumventing* their Neighbour, and of colluding with Heaven, that, were the Scholars as apt as their Teachers, there would have been long ſince an end of all either true Piety or common Honesty; and nothing left among them but authorized *Hypocriſie*, *Licentiousneſs*, and *Knavery*; had not the natural worth of the better ſort, and the good Simplicity of the meaner, in great meaſure preſerved them. For nothing indeed but an extraordinary temper and ingenuity of Spirit, and that too aſſiſted by a divine influence, could poſſibly reſtrain thoſe within any the terms or Laws of *Humanity*, who at the ſame time own the Doctrine of their *Caſuiſts* or the *Authority* of the *Pope*, as it is by him claimed and exerciſed. He by his *Indulgences* delivers ſouls out of the pains of the other world: So that who would reſuſe to be vicious here, upon ſo good ſecurity. He by his *Dispensation* annuls *Contracts* betwixt man and man, diſſolves Oaths between *Princes*, or betwixt them and their People, and gives allowance in caſes which God and nature prohibits. He, as Clerk of the ſpiritual *Market*, hath ſet a rate upon all crimes: the more flagitious they are and abominable, the better *Commodities*, and men pay only a higher price as for greater rarities. So that it ſeems as if the commands of God had been invented meerly to erect an Office for the *Pope*; the worſe *Chriſtians* men are, the better *Customers*, and this *Rome* does by the ſame policy people its Church, as the Pagan *Rome* did the City, by opening a *Sanctuary* to all Malefactors. And why not, if his power be indeed of ſuch vertue and extent as is by him challenged: That he is the *Ruler* over Angels, Purgatory and Hell. That his Tribunal and Gods are all one. That all that God, he can do, *claves non errant*, and what he does is as God and not as man. That he is the Universal Head of the Church; The ſole Interpreter of Scripture, and Judge of Controverſy. That he is above General Councils. That his Power is abſolute, and his Decrees infallible.

that

That he can change the very nature of things, making what is *Just* to be *Unjust*, and what is *Vice* to be *Vertue*. That all Laws are in the Cabinet of his Breast. That he can dispense with the New Testament. That he is Monarch of this *World*, and that he can dispose of *Kingdoms* and *Empires* as he pleases. Which things being granted, that stile of *Optimum*, *Maximum* & *supremum numen in terris*, or that of *Dominus*, *Deus noster*, *Papa*, was no such extraordinary stroke of *Courtship*, as we reckoned: but it was rather a great clownishness in him that treated so mighty a *Prince* under the simple Title of *Vice Deus*. The exercise of his Dominion is in all points suitable to this his pretence. He antiquates the precepts of *Christ* as things only of good advice, not commanded; but makes it a mortal sin even to doubt of any part of his own *Religion*, and demands under pain of damnation the subjection of all *Christians* to his *Papal Authority*: the denying of two things so reasonable as blind Obedience to this power, and an *Implicite Faith* to his *Doctrine*, being the most unpardonable crime, under his *Dispensation*. He has indeed of late been somewhat more retentive than formerly as to his faculty of *Disposing of Kingdoms*, the thing not having succeeded well with him in some Instances, but he lays the same claim still, continues the same inclination, and though velvet headed hath the more itch to be pushing. And however in order to any occasion he keeps himself in breath always by cursing one Prince or other upon every Maunday Thursday: Nor is there any, whether Prince or Nation, that dissents from his Usurpations, but are marked out under the notion of *Hereticks* to ruine and destruction whensoever he shall give the signal. That word of *Heresy* misapplied, hath served him for so many Ages to Justifie all the Executions, Assassinations, Wars, Massacres, and Devastations, whereby his Faith hath been propagated; of which our times also have not wanted Examples, and more is to be expected for the future. For by how much any thing is more false and unreasonable, it requires more cruelty to establish it: and to introduce

dupe, that which is absurd, there must be somewhat done that is barbarous. But nothing of any sect in Religion can be more recommended by all these qualities than the *Papacy*. The *Papists* are excusable by their natural darkness, without Revelation. The *Jews* are tolerable, who see not beyond the *Old Testament*. *Mahomet* was so honest as to own what he would be at, that he himself was the greatest Prophet, and that his was a Religion of the Sword. So that these were all, as I may say, of another Allegiance and of Enemies, yet not Traitors: But the Pope avowing Christianity by profession both in Doctrine and Practice renounce it: And pretending to be the only *Catholic*, does persecute those to the death, who do worship the Author of their Religion instead of his pretended Vice-gerent.

And yet there is nothing more evident, notwithstanding his most notorious forgeries and falsification of all Writers, than that the Pope was for several Hundred of Years an honest Bishop as other men are, and never so much as dreamed upon the Seven Hills of that universal power which he has now come to say was the first that opposed any such pretension. But some of them at last growing wiser, by founting a counterfeit Donation of *Constantine*, and wresting another Donation from our Saviour, advanced themselves in a weak ignorant, and credulous Age, to that Temporal and Spiritual Principality that they are now seized of. *Te es Petrus, & super hoc Petram, edificabo Ecclesiam meam*. Never was a Bishoprick and a Verse of Scripture so improved by good management. Thus, by exercising in the quality of Christs Vicar the publick function under an invisible Prince, the Pope, like the Affairs of the Palace, hath set his Matter aside and delivered the Government over to a new Line of Papal Succession. But who can, unless wilfully, be ignorant what wretched doings, what Bribery, what Ambition there are, how long the Church is without an Head upon every Vacancy, till among the crew of dandying Cardinals the Holy Ghost have declared for a Pope of the *French* or *Spanish* Faction.

tion. It is a succession like that of the *Egyptian Ox* (the living Idol of that Country) who dying or being made away by the Priests, there was a solemn and general mourning for want of a Deity; until in their Conclave they had found out another Beast with the very same marks as the former, whom then they themselves adored and with great Jubilee brought forth to the People to worship. Nor was that Election a grosser reproach to human Reason than this is also to Christianity. Surely it is the greatest Miracle of the Romish Church that it should still continue, and that in all this time the Gates of Heaven should not prevail against it.

It is almost unconceivable how Princes can yet suffer a Power so pernicious, and Doctrine so destructive to all Government. That so great a part of the Land should be alienated and condemned too, as they call it, Pious Lives. That such millions of their People as the Clergy, should, by remaining unmarried, either frustrate human Nature if they live chastly, or, if otherwise, adulterate it. That they should be privileged from all labour, all publick Service, and exempt from the power of all Secular Jurisdiction. That they, being all bound, by strict Oaths and Vows of Obedience to the *Pope*, should evacuate the Fealty due to the Sovereign. Nay, that not only the Clergy but their whole People, if of the *Romish* persuasion, should be obliged to rebel at any time upon the *Popes* pleasure. And yet how many of the Neighbouring Princes are content, or do chuse to reign, upon those Conditions; which being so dishonourable and dangerous, surely some great and more weighty reason does cause them submit to. Whether it be out of personal fear having heard perhaps of several attempts which the blind Obedience of *Popish Zealots* hath executed against their Princes. Or, whether aiming at a more absolute and tyrannical Government, they think it still to be the Case of *Boniface* and *Phocas* (an usurping Emperor and an usurping Bishop) and that, as other cheats, this also is best to be managed by Confederacy. But, as far as I can apprehend, there is

more of Sloth then Policy on the Princes side in this whole matter: and all that pretence of inflaving men by the assistance of Religion more easily, is neither more nor less then when the *Brahmin* by having the first night of the Bride assures himself of her devotion for the future, and makes her more fit for the husband.

This reflection upon the state of our Neighbours, in aspect to Religion, doth sufficiently illustrate our happiness, and spare me the labour of describing it further, then by the Rule of Contraries: Our Church standing upon all points in a direct opposition to all the forementioned errours. Our Doctrine being true to the Principles of the first Christian Institution, and Episcopacy being formed upon the primitive Model, and no Ecclesiastical Power jostling the Civil, but all concurring in common Obedience to the Sovereign. Nor therefore is there any, whether Prince or Nation, that can with less probability be reduced back to the *Romish* persuasion than ours of *England*.

For, if first we respect our Obedience to God, what appearance is there that after so durable and general an enlightning of our minds with the sacred Truth, we should again put out our own Eyes, to wander thorow the palpable darknels of that gross Superstition. But forasmuch as most men are less concerned for their Interest in Heaven than on Earth, this seeming the nearer and more certain on this account, altho our alteration from the *Protestant Religion* is the more impossible. When beside the common ill Examples and consequences of *Papery* observable abroad, whereby we might grow wise at the expence of our Neighbours, we cannot but reflect upon our own Experiments at home, which would make even fools docible. The whole Reign of Queen *Mary*, in which the *Papists* made Fewel of the *Protestants*. The Excommunicating and Deprivation of Queen *Elizabeth* by the *Pope*, pursued with so many *Treasons* and attempts upon her Person by her own Subjects, and the Invasion in *Eighty Eight* by the *Spanish*. The two *Breves* of the *Pope* in

order to exclude King *James* from the Succession to the Crown, seconded by the *Gunpowder Treason*. In the time of his late Majesty, King *Charles* the first, (besides what they contributed to the Civil War in *England*) the Rebellion and horrid Massacre in *Ireland*, and, which was even worse than that, their pretending that it was done by the Kings Commission, and vouching the *Broad Seal* for their Authority. The *Popes Nuncio* assuming nevertheless and exercising there the Temporal as well as Spiritual Power, granting out Commissions under his own Hand, breaking the Treaties of Peace between the King; and, as they then styled themselves, the *Confederate Catholics*; heading two Armies against the Marquess of *Ormond*, then Lord Lieutenant, and forcing him at last to quit the Kingdom: all which ended in the ruine of His Majesties Reputation, Government and Person; which but upon occasion of that Rebellion, could never have happened. So that we may reckon the Reigns of our late Princes, by a succession of the *Papists Treasons* against them. And, if under his present Majesty we have as yet seen no more visible effects of the same spirit than the *Firing of London* (acted by *Habers*, hired by *Pieddelon* two *French men*) which remains a Controversie, it is not to be attributed to the good nature or better Principles of that Sect, but to the wisdom of his *Holiness*; who observes that we are not of late so dangerous *Protestants* as to deserve any special mark of his Indignation, but that we may be made better use of to the weakening of those that are of our own Religion, and that if he do not disturb us, there are those among our selves, that are leading us into a fair way of Reconciliation with him.

But those continued fresh Instances, in relation to the Crown, together with the *Popes* claim of the Temporal & immediate Dominion of the Kingdoms of *England* and *Ireland*, which he does so challenge, are a sufficient caution to the Kings of *England*, and of the People, there is as little hopes to seduce them, the *Protestant Religion* being so interwoven

as it is with their secular Interest. For the Lands that were formerly given to superstitious uses, having first been applied to the Publick Revenue, and afterwards by several Alienations and Contracts distributed into private possession, the alteration of Religion would necessarily introduce a change of Property. *Nellus tempus praevenit Ecclesis*, it would make a general Earth-quake over the Nation, and even now the *Romish* Clergy on the other side of the water, shake up the favoury odour of so many rich *Abbeys* and *Monasteries* that belonged to their Predecessors. Hereby no considerable Estate in *England* but must have a piece torn out of it upon the Title of Priory, and the rest subject to be wholly forfeited upon the account of *Abuse*. Another *Chimney* many of the old *Purveys* must again be payed, as tribute to the Pope, beside that which is established on his Majesty: and the People, instead of those moderate Tithes that are with too much difficulty payed to their Protestant Pastors, will be exposed to all the exactions of the Court of *Rome*, and a thousand artifices by which in former times they were used to drain away the wealth of ours more than any other Nation. So that in conclusion there is no *Englishman* that hath a Soul, a Body, or an Estate to save, that Loves either God, his King, or his Country, but is by all those Ties bound, to the best of his Power and Knowledge, to maintain the established *Protestant Religion*.

And yet, all this notwithstanding, there are those men among us, who have undertaken, and do make it their business, under so Legal and perfect a Government, to introduce a *French* slavery, and instead of so pure a Religion, to establish the *Roman* Idolatry: both and either of which are Crimes of the highest nature. For, as to matter of Government, if to murder the King be, as certainly it is, a Fact so horrid, how much more heinous is it to assassinate the Kingdom? And as none will deny, that to alter our *Monarchy* into a *Commonwealth* were *Treason*, so by the same Fundamental Rule, the Crime is no less to make that *Monarchy* *Absolute*.

What

What is thus true in regard of the State, holds as well in reference to our Religion. Former Parliaments have made it Treason in whosoever shall attempt to seduce any one, the meanest of the Kings Subjects, to the Church of Rome. And this Parliament hath, to all penalties by the Common or Statute Law, added incapacity for any man who shall presume to say that the King is a Papist or an Introducer of Popery. But what lawless and incapable miscreants then, what wicked Traitors are those wretched men, who endeavour to pervert our whole Church, and to bring that about in effect, which even to mention is penal; at one *Italian* stroke attempting to subvert the Government and Religion, to kill the Body and damn the Soul of our Nation.

Yet were these men honest old Cavaliers that had suffered in his late Majesties service, it were allowable in them, as oft as their wounds brake out at Spring or Fall, to think of a more Arbitrary Government; as a sovereign Balsom for their Aches, or to imagine that no Weapon-salve but of the Moss that grows on an Enemies Skull could cure them. Should they mistake this Long Parliament also for Rebels, and that although all Circumstances be altered, there were still the same necessity to fight it all over again in pure Loyalty, yet their Age and the Times they have lived in might excuse them. But those worthy Gentlemen are too generous, too good Christians and Subjects, too affectionate to the good *English* Government, to be capable of such an Impression. Whereas these Conspirators are such as have not one drop of *Cavalier Blood*, or no *Bowels* at least of a *Cavalier* in them; but have starved them, to Revel and Surfet upon their Calamities, making their Person, and the very Cause, by pretending to it themselves, almost Ridiculous.

Or, were these Conspirators on the other side but avowed *Papists*, they were the more honest, the less dangerous, and the Religion were answerable for the Errours they might commit in order to promote it. Who is there but must acknowledge

acknowledge, if he do not commend the Ingenuity (or by what better Name I may call it) of Sir *Thomas Strickland*, Lord *Bellasis*, the late Lord *Clifford* and others, eminent in their several Stations: These, having so long appeared the most zealous Sons of our Church, yet, as soon as the late Test against *Popery* was enacted, took up the Cross, quitted their present Employments and all hopes of the future, rather than falsify their opinion; though other wise men for Quality, Estate and Abilities whether in War or Peace, as capable and well deserving (without disparagement) as others that have the art to continue in Offices. And above all his Royal Highness is to be admired for his unparalleled magnanimity on the same account; there being in all History perhaps no Record of any *Prince* that ever changed his Religion in his Circumstances. But these persons, that have since taken the work in hand, are such as lye under no temptation of Religion: *Securè* men, that are above either Honour or Conscience but obliged by all the most sacred ties of Malice and Ambition to advance the ruine of the King and Kingdom, and qualified much better than others, under the name of good Protestants, to effect it.

And because it was yet difficult to find Complices enough at home, that were ripe for so black a design, but they wanted a Back for their Edge; therefore they applyed themselves to *France*, that King being indowed with all those qualities, which in a Prince, may pass for vertues; but in any private man, would be capital; and moreover so abounding in wealth that no man else could go to the price of their wickedness: To which considerations, adding that he is the Master of *Absolute Dominion*, the *Presumptive Monarch* of *Christendom*, the declared *Champion* of *Popery*, and the hereditary, natural, inveterate *Enemy* of our King and Nation he was in all respects the most likely (of all earthly powers) to reward and support them in a Project every way suitable to his own Inclination and Interest.

And now, should I enter into a particular retail of all former

former and latter Transactions, relating to this affair, there would be sufficient for a just Volume of History. But my intention is only to write a naked Narrative of some the most considerable passages in the meeting of *Parliament* the 15. of *Feb.* 1675. Such as have come to my notice which may serve for matter to some stronger Pen and to such as have more leisure and further opportunity to discover and communicate to the Publick. This in the mean time will by the Progress made in so few weeks, demonstrate at what rate these men drive over the necks of King and People, of Religion and Government; and how near they are to all human Probability to arrive Triumphant at the end of their Journey. Yet, that I may not be too abrupt, and leave the Reader wholly destitute of a thread to guide himself by thorow so intreaguina Labyrinth, I shall summarily as short, as so copious and redundant a matter will admit, deduce the order of affairs both at home and abroad, as it led into this Session.

It is well known, were it as well remembered, what the provocation was, and what the success of the War begun by the *English* in the Year 1665. against *Holland*; what vast supplies were furnished by the Subject for defraying it, and yet after all, no Fleet set out, but the Flower of all the Royal Navy burnt or taken in Port to save charges. How the *French* during that War, joyned themselves in assistance of *Holland* against us, and yet, by the credit he had with the Queen Mother, so far deluded his Majesty, that upon assurance the *Dutch* neither would have any Fleet out that Year, he forbore to make ready, and so incurred that notable loss, and disgrace at *Chatham*. How (after this fatal conclusion of all our *Sea-Champagnes*) as we had been obliged to the *French* for that War, so we were glad to receive the Peace from his favour which was agreed at *Breda* betwixt *England*, *France* and *Holland*.

His Majesty was hereby now at leisure to remark how the *French* had in the year 1667. taken the time of us and while

while we were imbroiled and weakened had in violation of all the most solemn and sacred Oaths and Treaties invaded and taken a great part of the *Spanish Nether-Land*, which had always been considered as the natural Frontier of *England*. And hereupon he judged it necessary to interpose, before the flame that consumed his next neighbour should throw its sparkles over the water. And therefore, generously slighting all punctillios of ceremony or pecks of animosity, where the safety of his people and the repose of Christendom were concerned, he sent first into *Holland*, inviting them to a nearer Alliance, and to enter into such further Counsels as were most proper to quiet this publick disturbance which the *French* had raised. This was a work wholly of his Majesties designing and (according to that felicity which hath always attended him, when excluding the corrupt Politicks of others he hath followed the dictates of his own Royal wisdom) so well it succeeded. It is a thing scarce credible, though true, that two Treaties of such weight, intricacy, and so various aspect as that of the *Defensive League* with *Holland*, and the other for repressing the further progress of the *French* in the *Spanish Nether-Land*, should in five days time, in the year 1668 be concluded. Such was the expedition and secretly then used in prosecuting his Majesties particular Instructions, and so easy a thing is it for Princes when they have a mind to it, to be well served. The *Swedes* too shortly after made the third in this concert; whether wisely judging that in the minority of their King reigning over several late acquired Dominions, it was their true interest to have an hand in all the Counsels that tended to peace an undisturbed Possession, or, whether indeed those Ministers, like ours, did even then project in so glorious an Alliance to betray it afterward to their own great advantage. From their joining in it was called the Triple Alliance. His Majesty with great sincerity continued to sollicite other Princes according to the seventh Article to come into the Guaranty of this Treaty, and delighted himself in cultivating

ting by all good means what he had planted. But in a very
 short time these Counsels, which had taken effect with so
 great satisfaction to the Nation and to his Majestyes eternal
 honour, were all changed and it seemed that Taceties, as
 soon as the Wax is cold, do lose their virtue. The King in
 June 1670 went down to *Dover* to meet after a long absence
Madam, his only remaining sister: where the days were
 the more pleasant, by how much it seldomer happens to
 Princes then private persons to enjoy their Relations, and
 when they do, yet their kind interviews are usually solemn-
 ized with some fatality and disaster, nothing of which here
 appeared. But upon her first return into *France* she was dead,
 the Marquis of *Belfont* was immediately sent hither, a Per-
 son of great Honour dispatched hither, and before even the
 inquiry and grumbling at her death could be abated, in a
 trice there was an invisible League, in prejudice of the Triple
 one, struck up with *France* to all the height of dearth and
 affection, as if upon dissecting the Princes there had some
 state Philire being found in her bowels, or the reconciliation
 with *France* were not to be celebrated with a less sacrifice
 then of the Blood Royal of *England*. The sequel will be surpris-
 ing to so ominous a beginning. But as this Treaty was a work
 of Darkness, and which could never yet be understood or dis-
 covered but by the effects, so before these appeared it was ne-
 cessary that the Parliament should after the old wont be
 galled to the giving of money. They met the Oct. 24. 1670. and
 it is not without much labor that I have been able to recover
 a written Copy of the Lord *Bridgman*s speech, none being
 printed, but forbidden, doubtless left so notorious a Practice
 as certainly was never before, tho there have indeed been
 many put upon the Nation, might remain publick. Altho
 that honourable Person cannot be presumed to have been ac-
 cessary to what was then intended, but was in due time, when
 the Project ripened and grew hopeful, discharged from his
 Office, and he the Dr. of *Ormond*, the late Secretary *Treasury*
 with the Prince *Rupert* discarded, together out of the Com-
 mittee for the *Forreign* Affairs, he spoke thus,

My

My Lords, and you the Knights, Citizens and Burgesses
of the House of Commons.

WHEN the two Houses were last adjourned, this Day, as you well know, was perfix'd for your Meeting again. The Proclamation since issued requiring all your attendances at the same time shew'd not only his Majesties belief that his business will thrive best when the Houses are fullest, but the importance also of the Affairs for which you are so called: and important they are. I cannot be ignorant of the great Forces both for Land and Sea-service which our Neighbours of France and the Low-Countries have rais'd, and have now in actual Pay: nor of the great Preparations which they continue to make in Levying of Men, Building of Ships, filling their Magazines and Stores with immense quantities of all sorts of Warlike Provisions. Since the beginning of the last Dutch War, the French have increased the Greatness and Number of their Ships so much, that their strength by Sea is thrice as much as it was before. And since the end of it, the Dutch have been very diligent also in augmenting their Fleets. In this conjuncture, when our Neighbours are so powerfully, even common prudence requires that his Majesty should make some sensible preparations; that he may at least keep pace with his Neighbours; if not out-go them in Number and Strength of Shipping. For this being a Island, both our Safety, our Trade, our Being, and our Well-Being depend upon our Forces at Sea. His Majesty therefore, of his Princely Care for the Good of his People, hath given order for the fitting out of Fifty Sail of the Greatest Ships, against the Spring, besides those which are to be for Security of our Merchants in the Mediterranean: as forseeing, if he should not have a considerable Fleet, whilst his Neighbours have such Forces both at Land and Sea, Temptation might be given to those who seem not now to intend it, to give us an Account, at least, if not to do us a Mischief.

To which may be added, that his Majesty, by the Leagues which he hath made, for the Common Peace of Christendom,

dom, and the good of his Kingdoms, is obliged to a certain Number of Forces in case of Infracti^{on} thereof, as also for the Assistance of some of his Neighbours, in case of Invasion. And his Majesty would be in a very ill condition to perform his part of the Leagues (if whilst the Clouds are gathering so thick about us) he should, in hopes that the Wind will disperse them, omit to provide against the Storm.

My Lords and Gentlemen, Having nam'd the Leagues made by his Majesty, I think it necessary to put you in mind, That since the Close of the late War, his Majesty hath made several Leagues, to his own great Honour, and infinite Advantage to the Nation.

One known by the Name of the *Tripple Alliance*, wherein his Majesty, the Crown of Sweden and the States of the United Provinces are engaged to preserve the Treaty of Aix la Chapelle, concerning a Peace between the two warring Princes, which Peace produced that effect, that it quenched the Fire which was ready to have set all Christendom in a Flame. And besides oth^r great Benefits by it, which she still enjoys, gave opportunity to transmit those Forces against the Infidels, which would otherwise have been imbrued in Christian Blood.

Another between his Majesty and the said States, for a Mutual Assistance, with a certain number of Men and Ships in case of Invasion by any others.

Another betw^{en} his Majesty and the Duke of Savoy, Establishing a Free Trade for his Majesties Subjects at Villa Franca, a Port of his own upon the Mediterranean, and through the Dominions of that Prince; and thereby opening a Passage to a Rich part of Italy, and part of Germany, which will be of a very great advantage for the Vending of Cloth and other our home Commodities, bringing back Silk and other Materials for Manufactures than here.

Another between his Majesty and the King of Denmark, whereby those other Impositions that were lately laid upon our Trade there, are taken off, and as great Priviledges granted

to our Merchants, as ever they had in former Times, or as the Subjects of any other Prince or State do now enjoy.

And another League upon a Treaty of Commerce with Spain, whereby there is not only a Cessation and giving up to his Majesty of all their Pretensions to Jamaica, and other Islands and Countries in the West-Indies, in the Possession of his Majesty or his Subjects, but with all, free Liberty is given to his Majesties Subjects, to enter their Ports for Victuals and Water, and safety of Harbour and Return, if Storm or other Accidents bring them thither; Priviledges which were never granted by them to the English or any others.

Not to mention the Leagues formerly made with Sweden and Portugal, and the Advantages which we enjoy thereby; nor those Treaties now depending between his Majesty and France, or his Majesty and the States of the United Provinces touching Commerce, wherein his Majesty will have a singular regard to the Honour of this Nation, and also to the Trade of it, which never was greater than now it is.

In a word, Almost all the Princes in Europe do seek his Majesties Friendship, as acknowledging they cannot secure, much less Improve their present condition without it.

His Majesty is confident that you will not be contented to see him deprived of all the advantages which he might procure hereby to his own Kingdoms, nay even to all Christendom, in the Repose and Quiet of it. That you will not be content abroad to see your Neighbours strengthening themselves in Shipping, so much more than they were before, and at Home to see the Government struggling every year with Difficulties, & not able to keep up our Navies equal with theirs. He finds that by his Accounts from the year 1666 to the Late War, the ordinary Charge of the Fleet Communibus Annis came to about 500000. a year, and it cannot be supported with less.

If that particular alone take up so much, add to it the other constant Charges of the Government, and the Revenue (although the Commissioners of the Treasury have manag'd it with all imaginable Thrift) will in no degree suffice to take of the Debts due upon

upon Interest, much less give him a Fond for the setting out of this Fleet, which by common Estimation thereof cannot cost less than 800000 l. His Majesty in his most gracious Speech, hath expressed the great sense he hath of your Zeal and affection for him, and as he will ever retain a grateful memory of your former readiness to supply him in all Exigences, so he doth with particular thanks acknowledge your frank and chearful Gift of the New Duty upon Wines, at your last Meeting: But the same is likely to fall very short in value of what it was conceived to be worth, and should it have answered expectation yet far too short to ease or help him upon these Occasions. And therefore such a Supply as may enable him to take off his Debts upon Interest, and to set out this Fleet against the Spring, is that which he desires from you, and recommends it to you, as that which concerns the Honour and support of the Government, and the Welfare and Safety of your Selves and the whole Kingdom.

My Lords and Gentlemen, You may perceive by what his Majesty hath already said, that he holds it requisite that an End be put to this Meeting before Christmas. It is so not only in reference to the Preparation for his Fleet, which must be in readiness in the Spring, but also to the Season of the Year. It is a time when you would be willing to be in your Countrey, and your Neighbours would be glad to see you there, and partake of your Hospitality and Charity, and you thereby endear your selves to them, and keep up that Interest and Power among them, which is necessary for the service of your King and Country, and a Recalls at that time, leaving your business unfinished till your Return, cannot either be convenient for you, or suitable to the condition of his Majesties Affairs, which requires your Speedy, as well as Affectionate Consideration.

There needed not so large a Catalogue of past, present and future Leagues and Treaties, for even *Villa Franca* founded so well (being besides so considerable a Port, and that too upon the *Mediterranean* (another remote word of much efficacy) and opening moreover a passage to a rich part of *Italy*, and a part of *Germany*, &c.) that it alone would have sufficed to charm the more ready Votes of the Commons into a supply, and to justify the necessity of it in the noise of the Country. But indeed the making of that *Tripple League*, was a thing of so good a report and so generally acceptable to the Nation, as being a hook in the *French* nostrils, that this Parliament (who are used, whether it be War or Peace, to make us pay for it) could not have desired a fairer pretence to colour their liberality.

And therefore after all the immense sums lavished in the former War with *Holland*, they had but in *April* last, 1670, given the *Additional* Duty upon Wines for 8 years, amounting to 560000 and confirmed the sale of the *Fee Farm* Rents, which was no less their gift, being a part of the publick Revenue to the value of 1800000. Yet upon the telling of this Story by the *Lord Keeper*, they could no longer hold but gave with both hands now again a Subsidy of 1s. in the pound to the real value of all Lands and other Estates proportionably, with several more beneficial Clauses into the bargain, to begin the 24 of *June* 1671, and expires the 24 of *June* 1672. Together with this, they granted the *Additional Excise* upon *Beer, Ale &c.* for six years, to reckon from the same 24 of *June* 1671, And lastly the *Law Bill* commencing from the first of *May* 1671, and at nine years end to determine. These three Bills summed up therefore cannot be estimated at less than two millions and an half.

So that for the *Tripple League*, here was also *Tripple Supply*, and the Subject had now all reason to believe that this Alliance, which had been fixed at first by the *Publick Interest, Safety and Honour* (yet, should any of those give way) was by these *Three Grants*, as with three *Golden Nails*, sufficiently

ently clenched and reivetted. But now therefore was the most proper time and occasion for the Conspirators, I have before described, to give demonstration of their fidelity to the *French King*, and by the forfeiture of all these obligations to their King and Countrey, and other Princes, and at the expence of all this Treasure given to contrary uses, to recommend themselves more meritoriously to his patronage.

The *Parliament* having once given this Money, were in consequence Prorogued, and met not again till the 24 of *February* 1672, that there might be a competent scope for so great a work as was defined, and the Architects of our Ruine might be so long free from their busie and odious inspection till it were finished. Henceforward, all the former applications made by his Majesty to induce Forraign Princes into the *Guarranty* of the Treaty of *Aix le Chapelle* ceased, and on the contrary, those who desired to be admitted into it, were here refused. The Duke of *Lorain*, who had always been a true friend to his Majesty, and by his affection to the *Tripple League* had incurred the *French Kings* displeasure, with the loss of his whole Territory, seized in the year 1669, against all Laws not only of *Peace* but *Hostility*, yet was by means of these men rejected, that he might have no Interest in the Alliance, for which he was sacrificed. Nay even the Emperour, though he did his Majesty the honour to Address voluntarily to him, that himself might be received into that *Tripple League*, yet could not so great a Prince prevail but was turned off with blind Reason, and most frivolous Excuses. So far was it now from fortifying the Alliance by the Accession of other Princes, that Mr. *Henry Coventry* went now to *Sweden* expressly, as he affirmed at his departure hence, to dissolve the *Tripple League*. And he did so much towards it, cooperating in that Court with the *French Ministers*, that *Sweden* never (after it came to a Rupture) did assist or prosecute effectually the ends of the Alliance, but only arming it self at the expence of the *League*, did first, under a disguised *Mediation*, Act the *French Interest*, and

and at last threw off the *Mask* and drew the Sword in their Quarrel. Which is a matter of sad reflexion, that he, who in his *Embassy* at *Breda*, had been so happy an Instrument to end the first unfortunate War with *Holland*, should now be made the *Tool* of a second, and of breaking that threefold Cord, by which the Interest of *England* and all *Christendom* was fastned. And, what renders it more wretched, is, that no man better than he understood both the *Theory* and *Præctick* of *Honour*; and yet, could in so eminent an Instance, forget it. All which can be said in his excuse, is, that upon his return he was for this service made Secretary of State (as if to have remained the same *Honest Gentleman*, had not been more necessary and less dishonourable) Sir *William Lanyon* and several others were dispatched to other Courts upon the like errand.

All things were thus far well disposed here toward a War with *Holland*; only all this while there wanted a Quarrel, and to pick one required much Invention. For the *Dutch* although there was a *quære* to find out complaints, and our *East India Company* was summoned to know whether they had any thing to object against them, had so punctually complied with all the Conditions of the Peace at *Breda*, and observed his Majesty with such respect (and in paying the due Honour of the *Flagg*, particularly as it was agreed in the 19th Article) that nothing could be alledged, and as to the *Triple League*, their *Fleet* was then out, riding near their own Coasts, in prosecuting of the ends of that *Treaty*. Therefore, to try a new experiment and to make a Case which had never before happened or been imagined, a sorry *Taleb*, but bearing the *English* *Jack*, in August 1671. sails into the midst of their *Fleet*, singled out the *Admiral* shooting twice as they call it, sharp upon him. Which must sure have appeared as ridiculous and unnatural as for a *Lark* to dare the *Phoenix*.

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Never

Nevertheless their Commander in Chief, in deference to His Majesties Colours, and in consideration of the Amity betwixt the two Nations, payed our Admiral of the *Fatch* a visit, to know the reason, and learning that it was because he and his whole Fleet had failed to strike Saile to his small-craft, the *Dutch Commander* civilly excused it as a matter of the first instance, and in which he could have no Instructions, therefore proper to be referred to their Masters, and so they parted. The *Fatch* having thus acquitted it self, returned, fraught with the Quarrel she was sent for, which yet was for several moneths passed over here in silence without any Complaint or demand of satisfaction, but to be improved afterwards when occasion grew riper. For there was yet one thing more to be done at home to make us more capable of what was shortly after to be executed on our Neighbours.

The *Eschequer* had now for some years by excessive gain decoy'd in the wealthy *Goldsmiths*, and they the rest of the Nation by due payment of Interest, till the King was run (upon what account I know not) into debt of above two Millions: which served for one of the pretences in my Lord *Keepers Speech* above recited, to demand and grant the late Supplies, and might have sufficed for that work, with peace and any tolerable good husbandry. But as if it had been perfidious to apply them to any one of the Purposes declared, it was instead of payment privately resolved to shut up the *Eschequer*, least any part of the money should be legally expended, but that all might be appropriate to the Holy War in project, and those further pious uses to which the Conspirators had dedicated it.

This affair was carried on with all the secrecy of so great Statesmen, that they might not by venting it unseasonably spoil the wit and malice of the business. So that all on the suddain, upon the first of *January* 1671, to the great astonishment, ruine and despaire of so many interested persons, and to the terrour of the whole Nation, by so Arbitrary a
Fact,

Fact, the Proclamation issued whereby the Crown, amidst the confluence of so vast Aides and Revenue, published it self Bankrupt, made price of the Subject, and broke all Faith and Contract at home in order to the breaking of them abroad with more advantage.

There remained nothing now but that the Conspirators, after this exploit upon our own Countrymen, should manifest their impartiality to Forainers, and avoid on both sides the reproach of injustice by their equality in the distribution. They had now started the dispute about the Flag upon occasion of the Yarch, and begun the discourse of *Surinam*, and somewhat of *Pictures and Medalls*, but they handled these matters so nicely as men not less afraid of receiving all satisfaction therein from the *Hollanders*, than of giving them any umbrage of arming against them upon those pretences. The *Dutch* therefore, not being conscious to themselves of any provocation given to *England*, but of their readiness, if there had been any, to repair it, and relying upon that faith of Treaties and Alliances with us, which hath been thought sufficient security, not only amongst *Christians* but even with *Infidels*, pursued their Traffick and Navigation thorow our Seas without the least suspicion. And accordingly a great and rich Fleet of Merchantsmen from *Spain* and *Spain* were on their Voyage homeward near the Isle of *Wight* under a small Convoy of five or six of their men of War. This was the Fleet in contemplation of which the conspirators had so long deferred the War to plunder them in peace; the wealth of this was that which by its weight turned the Ballance of all Publick Justice and Honour; with this Treasure they imagined themselves in stock for all the wickedness of which they were capable, and that they should never after this addition, stand in need again or fear of a Parliament. Therefore they had with great stillness and expedition equipped early in the year, so many of the Kings Ships as might without jealousy of the number, yet be of compe-

rent strength for the intended action, but if any thing should
 chance to be wanting, they thought it abundantly supplied
 by virtue of the Commander: For Sir *Robert Holmes* had
 with the like number of Ships in the year 1661, even so time-
 ly commenced the first Hostility against *Holland*, in time of
 Peace; seizing upon *Cape Verde*, and other of the Dutch
 Forts on the Coast of *Guiny*, and the whole *New Nether-
 lands*, with great success: in defence of which Conquests,
 the *English* undertook, 1665, the first War against *Holland*.
 And in that same War, he with a proportionable Squadron
 signalized himself by burning the Dutch Ships and Village of
Brandaris at *Schelling*; which was unfortunately revenged
 upon us at *Chatham*. So that he was pitched upon as the
 person for understanding, experience and courage, fittest
 for a design of this or any higher nature; and upon the 14th
 of *March* 1672. as they sailed on, to the number of 72
 Vessels in all, whereof six the Convoy; near our Coast, he
 fell in upon them with his accustomed bravery, and could
 not have failed of giving a good account of them, would he
 but have joyned fortunes, Sir *Edward Spragg*'s Assistance
 to his own Conduct: For Sir *Edward* was in sight at the
 same time with his Squadron, and Captain *Legg* making
 sail towards him, to acquaint him with the design, till called
 back by a Gun from his Admiral, of which several persons
 have had their conjectures. Possibly Sir *Robert Holmes*, con-
 sidering that Sir *Edward* had sailed all along in consort with
 the Dutch in their voyage, and did but now return from bring-
 ing the Pirates of *Agier* to reason, thought him not so pro-
 per to engage in this enterprize before he understood it bet-
 ter. But it is rather believed to have preceeded partly from
 that Jealousy (which is usual to marshall spirits; like Sir
Robert) of admitting a Companion to share with him in the
 Spoil of Honour or Profit; and partly out of too strict a
 regard to preserve the secret of his Commission. However,
 by this means the whole affair miscarried. For the Mer-
 chant Men themselves, and their little Convoy did so bestir
 them

them; that Sir Robert, although he shifted his Ship, fell foul on his best Friends, and did all that was possible, unless he could have multiplied himself, and been every where, was forced to give it over, and all the Prize that was gotten, sufficed not to pay the Chirurgeons and Carpenters.

To descend to the very bottom of their hellish Conspiracy, there was yet one step more; that of Religion. For so pious and just an Action as Sir Robert Holmes was employed upon, could not be better accompanied than by the Declaration of *Liberty of Conscience* (unless they should have expected till he had found that precious Commodity in plundering the Hoale of some *Amsterdam* Fly-boat.) Accordingly, while he was trying his Fortune in Battle with the *Snayres* Merchant-Men, on the *thirteenth* and *fourteenth* of *March*, *One thousand six hundred seventy-two*, the *Indulgence* was Printing off here in all haste, and was Published on the *fifteenth*, as a more proper means than *Fasting* and *Prayer* for propitiating Heaven to give Success to his Enterprise, and to the War that must second it.

Hereby all the Penal *Laws* against *Papists*, for which former *Parliaments* had given so many Supplies, and against *Nonconformists*, for which this *Parliament* had payed more largely, were at one Instant Suspended, in order to defraud the Nation of all that *Religion* which they had so dearly purchased, and for which they ought at least, the Bargain being broke, to have been re-imbursed.

There is, I confess, a measure to be taken in those things, and it is indeed to the great reproach of Humane Wisdom, that no man has for so many Ages been able or willing to find out the due temper of Government in Divine Matters. For it appears at the first sight, that men ought to enjoy the same Property and Protection in their Consciences, which they have in their Lives, Liberties, and Estates; But that to take away those in Penalty for the other, is merely a more Legal

and

and Gentile way of Padding upon the Road of Heaven, and that it is only for want of Money and for want of Religion that men take those desperate Courses.

Nor can it be denied that the *Original Law* upon which Christianity at the first was founded, does indeed expressly provide against all such severity; And it was by the Humility, Meekness, Love, Forbearance, and Patience which were part of that excellent Doctrine, that it became at last the Universal Religion, and can no more by any other means be preserved, than it is possible for another Soul to animate the same Body.

But, with shame be it spoken, the *Spartans* obliging themselves to *Lycurgus* his Laws, till he should come back again, continued under his most rigid Discipline, above twice as long as the Christians did endure under the gentlest of all Institutions, though with far more certainty expecting the return of their Divine Legislator. Inasmuch that it is no great Adventure to say, That the World was better ordered under the Antient Monarchies and Common wealths, that the number of Vertuous men was then greater, and that the Christians found fairer quarter under those, than among themselves, nor hath there any advantage accrued unto mankind from that most perfect and practical Model of Humane Society, except the Speculation of a better way to future Happiness concerning which the very Guides disagree, and of those few that follow, it will suffer no man to pass without paying at their Turn-pikes. All which had proceeded from no other reason, but that men in stead of squaring their Governments by the Rule of Christianity, have shaped Christianity by the Measures of their Government, have reduced that straight Line by the crooked, and bungling Divine and Humane things together, have been always hacking and hewing one another, to frame an irregular Figure of Political Incongruity.

For wheresoever either the Magistrate, or the Clergy, or
the

the People could gratify their Ambition, their Profit, or their Phantse by a Text improved or misapplied, that they made use of though against the consent, sense and immutable precepts of *Scripture*, and because Obedience for Conscience sake was there prescribed, the less Conscience did men make in Commanding; so that several Nations have little else to shew for their Christianity (which requires Instruction only and Example) but a parcel of severe Laws concerning Opinion or about the Modes of Worship, not so much in order to the Power of Religion as over it. Nevertheless because Mankind must be governed some way and be held up to one Law or other, either of Christs or their own making, the vigour of such Human Constitutions is to be preserved until the same Authority shall upon better reason revoke them; and as in the mean time no private Man may without the guilt of Sedition or Rebellion resist, so neither by the Nature of the *English* Foundation can any publick Person suspend them without committing an Error which is not the less for wanting a legal name to express it. But it was the *Master piece* therefore of boldness and contrivance in these Conspirators to issue this Declaration and it is hard to say wherein they took the greater felicity, whether in suspending hereby all the Statutes against Popery, that it might thence forward pass like current *Money* over the Nation, and no man dare to refuse it, or whether gaining by this a President to suspend as well all other Laws that respect the Subjects Propriety, and by the same power to abrogate and at last make what they pleased, till there should be no further use for the Consent of the *People in Parliament*.

Having been thus true to their great design and made so considerable a progress, they advanced with all expedition. It was now high time to Declare the War, after they had begun it; and therefore by a *Manifesto* of the seventeenth of *March* 1672; the pretended Causes were made publick which

which were. They not having Vailed Bonnet to the *English* Yaton; though the *Dutch* had all along, both at home and here as carefully endeavoured to give, as the *English* Minister to avoid the receiving of all satisfaction, or letting them understand what would do it, and the Council Clock was on purpose set forward, lest their utmost Compliance in the Flag, at the hour appointed, should prevent the Declaration of war by some minutes. The detaining of some few *English* families (by their own consent) in *Surinam* after the Dominion of it was by Treaty surrendred up to the *Hollander*, in which they had likewise constantly yielded to the unreasonable demands that were from one time to another extended from hence to make the thing impracticable, till even *Sanister* himself, that had been imployed as the Agent and Contriver of this misunderstanding, could not at the last forbear to cry shame of it. And moreover to fill up the measure of the *Dutch* iniquity, they are accused of Pillars, Medalls, and Pictures: a Poet indeed, by a dash of his Pen, having once been the cause of a War against *Poland*; but this certainly was the first time that ever a *Printer* could by a stroke of his Pencil occasion the Breach of a Treaty. But considering the weakness and invalidity of those other allegations, these indeed were not unnecessary, the Pillars to add strength the Meddals weight, and the Pictures Colour to their Reasons.

But herein they had however observed Faith with *France* though on all other sides broken, having capitulated to be the first that should do it. Which as it was no small piece of *French* Courtesy in so important an action to yield the *English* the Precedence, so was it on the *English* part as great Bravery in accepting to be the formost to discompose the State of all *Christendom*, and make themselves principal to all the horrid Destruction, Devastation, Ravage and Slaugh-

ter, which from that fatal seventeenth of March, One thousand six hundred seventy two, has to this very day continued.

But that which was most admirable in the winding up of this Declaration, was to behold these words,

And whereas we are engaged by a Treaty to support the Peace made at Aix la Chapelle; We do finally Declare, that, notwithstanding the Prosecution of this War, We will maintain the true intent and scope of the said Treaty; and that in all Alliances, which We have, or shall make in the progress of this War, We have, and will take care, to preserve the ends thereof inviolable, unless provoked to the contrary.

And yet it is as clear as the Sun, that the French had by that Treaty of Aix la Chapelle, agreed to acquiesce in their former Conquests in Flanders, and that the English, Swede and Hollander, were reciprocally bound to be aiding against whomsoever should disturb that Regulation, (besides the League Offensive and Defensive, which his Majesty had entered into with the States General of the United Provinces) all which was by this Conjunction with France to be broken in pieces. So that what is here declared, if it were reconcilable to Truth, yet could not conflict with Possibility (which two do seldom break company) unless by one only Expedient, that the English, who by this new League with France, were to be the Infractors and Aggressors of the Peace of Aix la Chapelle (and with Holland) should to fulfill their Obligations to both Parties, have sheathed the Sword in our own Bowels.

But such was the Zeal of the Conspirators, that it might easily transport them either to say what was untrue, or undertake what was impossible, for the French Service.

That King having seen the English thus engaged beyond a Retreat, comes now into the War according to agreement. But he was more Generous and Monarchal than to assign Cause, true or false, for his Actions. He therefore, on the 27th of March 1672, publishes a Declaration of War without any Reasons. Only, *The ill satisfaction which his Majesty*

hath of the Behaviour of the States General towards him, being risen to that degree, that he can no longer, without diminution to his Glory dissemble his Indignation against them, &c. Therefore he hath resolved to make War against them both by Sea and Land, &c. And commands all his Subjects, Couriers, upon the Hollanders. (a Metaphor which, out of respect to his own Nation, might have been spared) For such is our pleasure.

Was ever in any Age or Nation of the World, the Sword drawn upon no better Allegation? A stile so far from being *Most Christian*, that nothing but some vain *French Romance* can parallel or justify the Expression, How happy were it could we once arrive at the same pitch, and how much credit and labour had been saved, had the Compilers of our Declaration, instead of the mean *English* way of giving Reasons, contented themselves with that of the Diminution of the *English Honour*, as the *French* of his *Glory*! But nevertheless, by his Ambassador to the Pope, he gave afterward a more clear account of his Conjunction with the *English*, and that he had not undertaken this War against the *Hollanders*, but for extirpating of Heresie. To the Emperour, That the *Hollanders* were a People who had forsaken God, were Hereticks, and that all good Christians were in duty bound to associate for their extirpation, and ought to pray to God for a blessing upon so pious an enterprise. And to other Popish Princes, that it was a War of Religion, and in order to the Propagation of the Catholick Faith.

And in the second Article of his Demands afterward from the *Hollanders*, it is in expresse words contained, That from thence forward there shall be not only an intire Liberty, but a Publick Exercise of the Catholick Apostolick Romane Religion throughout all the United Provinces. So that wheresoever there shall be more than one Church, another shall be given to the Catholicks. That where there is none, they shall be permitted to build one: and till that be finished, to exercise their Divine Service publickly in such Houses as they shall buy, or hire for that purpose. That the States General, or each Province in particular, shall appoint

appoint a reasonable Salary for a Curate or Priest in each of the said Churches; out of such Revenues as have formerly appertained to the Church, or otherwise. Which was conformable to what he published now abroad, that he had entered into the War only for Gods Glory; and that he would lay down Armes straightwayes, would the *Hollanders* but restore the True Worship in their Dominions.

But he made indeed twelve Demands more, and notwithstanding all this devotion, the Article of Commerce, and for revoking their *Plaquets* against Wine, Brandy, and French manufactures was the first, and took place of the *Catholick Apostolick Romane Religion*. Whether all these were therefore only words of course, and to be held or let lose according to his occasions, will better appear when we shall have heard that he still insists upon the same at *Nimegen*, and that, although deprived of our assistance, he will not yet agree with the *Dutch* but upon the termes of restoring the *True Worship*. But, whatever he were, it is evident that the *English* were sincere and in good earnest in the Design of Popery; both by that Declaration above mentioned of Indulgence to the Recusants, and by the Negotiation of those of the *English* Plenipotentiaries (whom for their honour I name not) that being in that year sent into *Holland*, pressed that Article among the rest upon them, as without which they could have no hope of Peace with *England*. And the whole proceffe of affairs will manifest further, that both here and there it was all of a piece, as to the project of Religion and the same threed ran throw the Web of the *English* and *French* Counsels, no less in relation to that, then unto Government.

Although the issuing of the *French* Kings Declaration, and the sending of our *English* Plenipotentiaries into *Holland* be involved together in this last period, yet the difference of time was so small that the anticipation is inconsiderable. For having declared the War but on the 27th of *March* 1672. He struck so home and followed his blow so close, that by *July* following, it seemed that *Holland* could no longer stand

him, but that the swiftness and force of his motion was something supernatural. And it was thought necessary to send over those Plenipotentiaries, if not for Interest yet at least for Curiosity. But it is easier to find the Marks than Reasons of some mens Actions, and he that does only know what happened before, and what after might perhaps wrong them by searching for further Intelligence.

So it was, that the *English* and *French* Navies being joined, were upon the *Twentieth* of *May*, One thousand six hundred seventy two, Attacked in *Soule Bay* by *De Ruyter*, with too great advantage. For while his Royal Highness, then Admiral, did all that could be expected, but *Monsieur d'Estree*, that commanded the *French*, did all that he was sent for, Our *English* Vice-Admiral, *Montague*, was sacrificed; and the rest of our Fleet so mangled, that there was no occasion to boast of Victory. So that being here still on the losing hand, 'twas fit some body should look to the Betts on the other side of the Water; least that Great and Lucky Gamster, when he had won all there, and stood no longer in need of the Conspirators, should pay them with a Quarrel for his Mony, and their ill Fortune. Yet were they not conscious to themselves of having given him by any Behaviour of theirs, any cause of Dissatisfaction, but that they had dealt with him in all things most frankly; That, notwithstanding all the Expressions in my Lord Keeper *Bridgmans* Speech, of the Treaty between France and his Majesty concerning Commerce, wherein his Majesty will have a singular regard to the Honour and also to the Trade of this Nation, and notwithstanding the intollerable oppressions upon the *English* Traffick in France ever since the Kings Restoration, they had not in all that time made one step towards a Treaty of Commerce or Navigation with him; no not even now when the *English* were so necessary to him, that he could not have begun this War without them, and might probably therefore in this conjuncture have cendescended to some equality. But they knew how tender that King was on that point, and to preserve and encrease the Trade of his Subjects, and

and that it was by the *Diminution* of that Beam of his *Glory*, that the *Hollander* had raised his *Indignation*. The Conspirators had therefore the more to gratify him, made it their constant Maxim, to burden the *English* Merchant here with one hand, while the *French* should load them no less with the other, in his Territories; which was a parity of Trade indeed, though something an extravagant one, but the best that could be hoped from the prudence and integrity of our States-men; insomuch, that when the Merchants have at any time come down from *London* to represent their grievances from the *French*, to seek redress, or offer their humble advice, they were Hector'd, Brow-beaten, Ridiculed, and might have found fairer audience even from *Monsieur Colbert*.

They knew moreover, that as in the matter of Commerce, so they had more obliged him in this War. That except the irresistible bounties of so great a Prince in their own particular, and a frugal Substantance-money for the Fleet, they had put him to no charges, but the *English* Navy Royal serv'd him, like so many *Privateers*, No Purchase, No Pay. That in all things they had acted with him upon the most abstracted Principles of Generosity. They had tyed him to no terms, had demanded no Partition of Conquests, had made no humane Condition; but had sold all to him for those two Pearls of price, the *True Worship*, and the *True Government*. Which disinterested proceeding of theirs, though suited to *Forraine* Magnanimity; yet, should we still lose at Sea, as we had hitherto, and the *French* Conquer all at Land, as it was in prospect, might at one time or other breed some difficulty in answering for it to the King and Kingdom: However this were, it had so hapned before the arrival of the *Plenipotentiaries*, that, whereas here in *England*, all that brought applications from *Holland* were treated as Spies and Enemies, till the *French* King should signify his pleasure; he on the contrary, without any communication here, had received Addresses from the *Dutch Plenipotentiaries*, and given into them the sum of his Demands (not once mentioning his Majesty or his Interest,

Interest, which indeed he could not have done unless for mockery, having demanded all for himself, so that there was no place left to have made the *English* any satisfaction; and the *French* Ministers therefore did very candidly acquaint those of *Holland*, that, upon their accepting those Articles, there should be a firm Peace, and Amity restored: But as for *England*, the States, their Masters, might use their discretion, for that *France* was not obliged by any Treaty to procure their advantage.

This manner of dealing might probably have animated, as it did warrant the *English Plenipotentiaries*, had they been as full of Resolution as of Power, to have closed with the *Dutch*, who, out of aversion to the *French*, and their intollerable demands, were ready to have thrown themselves into his Majesties Armes, or at his Feet, upon any reasonable conditions; But it wrought clean otherwise: For, those of the *English Plenipotentiaries*, who were, it seems, intrusted with a fuller Authority, and the deeper Secret, gave in also the *English Demands* to the *Hollanders*, consisting in eight Articles, but at last the Ninth faith,

Although his Majesty contents himself with the foregoing Conditions, so that they be accepted within ten days, after which his Majesty understands himself to be no further obliged by them. He declares nevertheless precisely, that albeit they should all of them be granted by the said States, yet they shall be of no force, nor will his Majesty make any Treaty of Peace or Truce, unless the Most Christian King shall have received satisfaction from the said States in his particular. And by this means they made it impossible for the *Dutch*, however desirous, to comply with *England*, excluded us from more advantagious terms, than we could at any other time hope for, and deprived us of an honest, and honourable evasion out of so pernicious a War, and from a more dangerous Alliance. So that now it appeared by what was done that the Conspirators securing their own fears at the price of the Publick Interest, and Safety, had bound us up more strait then ever, by a new Treaty, to the *French* Pro-
ject.

The rest of this year passed with great success to the *French*, but none to the *English*. And therefore the hopes upon which the War was begun, of the *Smyrna* and *Spanish* Fleet, and *Dutch* Prizes, being vanished, the slender Allowance from the *French* not sufficing to defray it, and the ordinary Revenue of the King, with all the former Aides being (as was fit to be believed) in less then one years time exhausted, The Parliament by the Conspirators good leave, was admitted again to sit at the day appointed, the 4th. of *February* 1672.

The War was then first communicated to them, and the Causes, the Necessity, the Danger, so well Painted out, that the *Dutch* abusive Historical Pictures, and False Medalls (which were not forgot to be mentioned) could not be better imitated or revenged; Onely, there was one great omission of their False Pillars, which upheld the whole Fabrick of the *Eng.* Declaration; Upon this signification, the House of Commons (who had never failed the Crown hitherto upon any occasion of mutual gratuity) did now also, though in a War contrary to former usuage, begun without their Advice, readily Vote, no less a summe than 125000 *l.* But for better Colour, and least they should own in words, what they did in effect, they would not say it was for the War, but for the Kings Extraordinary Occasions.

And because the Nation began now to be aware of the more true Causes, for which the War had been undertaken, they prepared an Act before the Money-Bill slipt thorow their Fingers, by which the Papists were obliged, to pass thorow a new State Purgatory, to be capable of any Publick Imployment, whereby the House of Commons, who seem to have all the Great Offices of the Kingdom in Reversion, could not but expect some Wind-falls.

Upon this Occasion it was, that the Earl of *Shaftsbury*, though then Lord Chancellour of *England*, yet Engaged so far in Defence of that ACT, and of the PROTESTANT RELIGION, that in due time it cost him his Place, and was the first moving Cause of all those Misadventures, and
Obloquy.

Obloquy, which since he lyes (*ABOVE*, not) *Under*.

The Declaration also of Indulgence was questioned, which though his *MAJESTY* had out of his Princely, and Gracious Inclination, and the memory of some former Obligations granted, yet upon their Representation of the Inconveniencies, and at their humble Request, he was pleased to Cancel, and Declare, that it should be no Precedent for the Future: For otherwise some succeeding Governour, by his single Power suspending Penal Laws, in a favourable manner, as that is of Religion, might become more dangerous to the Government, than either Papists or Fanaticks, and make us *Either*, when he pleased: So Legal was it in this Session to Distinguish between the King of *England* Personal, and his Parliamentary Authority.

But therefore the further sitting being grown very uneasy to those, who had undertaken for the Change of Religion, and Government, they procured the Recess so much sooner, and a Bill sent up by the Commons in favour of Dissenting Protestants, not having passed thorow the Lords preparation, the Bill concerning Papists, was enacted in Exchange for the Money, by which the Conspirators, when it came into their management, hoped to frustrate, yet the effect of the former. So the Parliament was dismissed till the *Twenty seventh* of *October*, *One thousand six hundred seventy three*.

In the mean time therefore they strove with all their might to regain by the War, that part of their Design, which they had lost by Parliament, and though several honourably forsook their Places rather than their Consciences, yet there was never wanting some double dyed Son of our Church, some Protestant in grain, to succeed upon the same Conditions. And the difference was no more, but that their Offices, or however their Counsels, were now to be administered by their Deputies, such as they could confide in.

The business of the Land Army was vigorously carried on, in appearance to have made some descent in *Holland*, but though the Regiments were Completed and kept Imbodyed it

it wanted effect, and therefore gave cause of suspicion: The rather, because no *Englishman*, among so many well-disposed, and qualified for the work, had been thought capable, or fit to be trusted with Chief Command of those Forces, but that *Monsieur Schomberg* a *French* Protestant, had been made General, and Colonel *Fitzgerald*, an *Irish* Papist, Major General, as more proper for the Secret; the first of advancing the *French* Government, the second promoting the *Irish* Religion.

And therefore the dark hovering of that Army so long at *Black-Heath*, might not improbably seem the gatherings of a Storm to fall upon *London*; But the ill successes which our Fleet met withal this Year also at Sea, were sufficient, had there been any such design at home, to have quash'd it: for such Gallantries are not to be attempted, but in the highest raptures of Fortune.

There were three several Engagements of ours against the *Dutch Navy* in this one Summer; but while nothing was Tenable at Land, against the *French*, it seem'd that to us at Sea every thing was impregnable; which is not to be attributed to the want of Courage or Conduct, either the former Year under the Command of his Royal Highness, so Great a Souldier; or this Year under the Prince *Rupert*; But is rather to be imputed to our unlucky Conjunction with the *French*, like the disasters that happen to men by being in ill Company.

But besides it was manifest that in all these Wars, the *French* meant nothing less than really to assist us: He had first practis'd the same Art at Sea, when he was in League with the *Hollanders* against us, his Navy never having done them any service, for his business was only to see us Batter one another. And now he was on the *English* side, he only studied to sound our Seas, to spy our Ports, to learn our Building, to contemplate our way of Fight, to consume ours, and preserve his own Navy, to encrease his Commerce, and to order all so, that the two great Naval Powers of *Europe*, being crushed together, he might remain sole Arbitrator of the Ocean, and by consequence Master of all the Isles and Continent. To

which purposes the Conspirators furnished him all possible opportunities. Therefore it was that *Monsieur d'Estree*, though a Person otherwise of tryed Courage and Prudence, yet never did worse than in the third and last Engagement, and because brave *Monsieur d'Artel* did better, and could not endure a thing that looked like Cowardise or Treachery, though for the Service of his Monarch, commanded him in, rated him, and at his return home he was, as then was reported, discountenanced and dismissed from his Command, for no other crime, but his breaking of the *French* measures, by adventuring one of those sacred Ships in the *English*, or, rather his own Masters Quarrel.

His Royal Highness (by whose having quitted the Admiralty, the Sea service thrived not the better) was now intent upon his Marriage, at the same time the Parliament was to reassemble the 27th of *October* 1673. the Princess of *Modena*, his Consort, being upon the way for *England*, and that business seemed to have passed all impediment. Nor were the Conspirators who (to use the *French* phrase) made a considerable Figure in the Government, wholly averse to the Parliaments meeting: For if the House of Commons had after one years unfortunate War, made so vast a Present to his Majesty of 1250000 *l.* But the last *February*, it seemed the argument would now be more pressing upon them, that by how much the ill successes, of this year had been greater, they ought therefore to give a yet more liberal Donative. And the Conspirators as to their own particular reckoned, that while the Nation was under the more distress and hurry they were themselves safer from Parliament, by the Publick Calamity.

A supply therefore was demanded with much more importunity and assurance then ever before, and that it should be a large one and a speedy: They were told that it was now *Pro Aris & Focis*, all was at stake. And yet besides all this, the Payment of the Debt to the Bankers upon shutting the Exchequer was very civilly recommended to them. And they

they were assured that his Majesty would be constantly ready to give them all proofs of his Zeal for the true Religion and the Laws of the Realm, upon all occasions. But the House of Commons not having been sufficiently prepared for such demands, nor well satisfied in several matters of Fact, which appeared contrary to what was represented, took check; and first interposed in that tender point of his Royal Highness's Match, although she was of his own Religion, which is a redoubled sort of Marriage, or the more spiritual part of its Happiness. Besides, that she had been already solemnly married by the Dukes Proxy, so that unless the Parliament had been Pope, and Claimed a power of Dispensation, it was now too late to avoid it. His Majesty by a short Prorogation of six days, when he understood their intention, gave them opportunity to have desisted: But it seems they judged the National Interest of Religion so far concerned in this matter, that they no sooner meet again, but they drew up a second request, by way of Address to his Majesty with their Reasons against it. That for his Royal Highness to marry the Princess of *Modena*, or any other of that Religion, had very dangerous consequences: That the minds of his Majesties Protestant subjects will be much disquieted, thereby filled with infinite discontents and Jealousies. That his Majesty would thereby be linked into such a foraine Alliance, which will be of great disadvantage and possibly to the Ruine of the Protestant Religion. That they have found by sad experience how such marriages have always increased Popery, and encouraged Priests and Jesuits to prevent his Majesties subjects: That the Popish party already lift up their heads in hopes of his marriage: That they fear it may diminish the affection of the people toward his Royal Highness, who is by blood so near related to the Crown: That it is now more then one Age, that the subjects have lived in continual apprehensions of the increase of Popery, and the decay of the Protestant Religion: Finally that she having many Kindred and Relations in the Court of *Rome*, by this means their enterprises

here might be facilitated, they might pierce into the most secret Counsels of his Majesty, and discover the state of the Realm. That the most learned men are of opinion, that Marriages no further Proceeded in, may lawfully be Dissolved: And therefore they beseech his Majesty to Annul the Consummation of it, and the Rather, because they have not yet the Happiness to see any of his Majestyes own Linage to Succeed in his Kingdoms.

These Reasons, which were extended more amply against his Royal Highnesses Marriage, obtained more weight, because most men are apt to Judge of things by Circumstances, and to attribute what happens by the Conjunction of Times, to the Effect of Contrivance. So that it was not difficult to Interpret what was in his Royal Highness, an ingagement only of Honour and Affection, as proceeding from the Conspirators Counsels, seeing it made so much to their purpose.

But the business was too far advanced to retreat, as his Majesty with great reason had replied, to their former Address, the Marriage having been celebrated already, and confirmed by his Royal Authority, and the House of Commons though sitting when the Duke was in a Treaty for the Arch Dutchess of *Inspruck*, one of the same Religion, yet having taken no notice of it.

Therefore while they pursued the matter thus, by a second Address, it seemed an easier thing, and more decent, to Progreue the Parliament, than to Dissolve the Marriage. And which might more incline his Majesty to this Resolution, the House of Commons had now bound themselves up by a Vote that having considered the present State of the Nation, they would not take into Deliberation, nor have any further Debate upon any other Proposals of Aid, or any Surcharge upon the Subject, before the payment of the *Twelve hundred and fifty thousand pounds*, in *eighteen Months*, which was last granted, were expired, or at least till they should evidently see that the Obstinacy of the *Hollanders* should oblige them to the contrary, nor till after the kingdom should be effectually secured

secured against the dangers of Popery, and Popish Counsellors, and that Order be taken against other present Mischemeanours.

There was yet another thing, the Land-Army, which appearing to them expensive, needless, and terrible to the People, they addressed to his Majesty also, that they might be disbanded. All which things put together, his Majesty was induced to Prorogue the Parliament again for a short time, till the *seventh of January*, *One thousand six hundred seventy three*: That in the mean while the Princess of *Modena* arriving, the Marriage might be consummated without further interruption.

That Session was opened with a large deduction also, by the new Lord *Keeper*, this being his first Experiment in the Lords House of his Eloquence and Veracity, of the *Hollanders* averfeness to Peace or Reason, and their uncivil and indirect dealing in all Overtures of Treaty with his Majesty, and a Demand was made therefore and re-inforced as formerly, of a proportionable and speedy Supply. But the *Hollanders* that had found themselves obstructed alwayes hitherto, and in a manner excluded from all Applications, and that whatever means they had used was still misinterpreted, and ill represented, were so industrious, as by this time (which was perhaps the greatest part of their Crime) to have undeceived the generality of the Nation in those particulars.

The House of Commons therefore not doubting, but that if they held their hands in matter of money, a Peace would in due time follow, grew troublesome rather to several of the great Ministers of State, whom they suspected to have been Principal in the late pernicious Counsels. But instead of the way of Impeachment, whereby the Crimes might have been brought to Examination, Proof and Judgment, they proceeded Summarily within themselves, noting then only with an ill Character, and requesting his Majesty to remove them from his Counsels, his Presence, and their Publick Employments. Neither in that way of handling were they Impartial.

Of

Of the three which were questioned, the Duke of *Buckingham* seemed to have much the more favourable Cause, but had the severest Fortune. And this whole matter not having been managed in the solemn Methods of National Justice, but transmitted to his Majesty, it was easily changed into Court Intrigue, where though it be a Modern *Maxime*,

That no State Minister ought to be punished, but, especially not upon Parliamentary Applications.

Yet other Offenders thought it of security to themselves in a time of Publick Discontent, to have one Man sacrificed, and so the Duke of *Buckingham* having worse Enemies, and as it chanced worse Friends than the rest, was after all his Services abandoned, they having only heard the sound, while he felt all the smart of that Lash from the House of Commons.

But he was so far a Gainer, that with the loss of his Offices, and dependance, he was restored to the Freedom of his own Spirit, to give thence-forward those admirable Proofs of the Vigour, and Vivacity of his better Judgment, in Asserting, (though to his own Imprisonment,) the due Liberties of the *English* Nation.

This manner of proceeding in the House of Commons, was a new way of negotiating the Peace with *Holland*, but the most effectual; the Conspirators living all the while under continual apprehensions of being called to further account for their Actions, and no many appearing, which would either have perpetuated the War, or might in case of a Peace, be misapplied to other uses than the building of Ships, insinuated by the Lord Keeper.

The *Hollanders* Proposals, by this means, therefore, began to be thought more reasonable; and the *Marquis del Fresno*, the *Spanish* Minister in this Court, laboured so well, that his Majesty thought fit to Communicate the overture to both Houses; and though their advice had not been asked to the War, yet not to make the Peace without it. There was not much difficulty in their Resolutions: For the general bent of the Nation was against the War; the *French* now had by their

their ill behaviour at Sea, in all the Engagements, raised also the *English* Indignation; their pernicious Counsels were visible in their book of the *Politique Françoise*, tending by frequent levyes of men, and mony, to exhaust and weaken our Kingdom, and by their conjunction with us, on set purpose, to raise betwixt the King and his People a rational Jealousy of Popery, and *French* Government, till we should insensibly devolve into them by Inclination or Necessity: As men of ill conversation, pin themselves maliciously on persons more sober, that if they can no otherwise debauch them, they may blast their Reputation by their society, and so oblige them to theirs, being suspected by better Company.

Besides all which the very reason of Traffick, which hath been so long neglected by our greater Statesmen was now of some consideration, for as much as by a Peace with the *Hollander* the greatest part of the Trade and Navigation of *Europe* as long as the *French* King disturbed it, would of course fall into the *English* management. The Houses therefore gave their humble advice to his Majesty for a just and honourable Peace with the States General, which when it could be no longer resisted, was concluded.

In the seventh Article of this Treaty it is said.

That the Treaty which was made at Breda in the year 1667, as also all the others which are by this present Treaty confirmed, shall by the present be renewed, and shall continue in their full force and vigour, as far as they shall not be contrary unto this said present Treaty.

Which words are the more to be taken notice of, that they may be compared afterwards with the effects that follow, to see how well on the *English* part that Agreement hath been observed.

The business of the Peace thus being once over, and this Parliament still lowring upon the Ministers of State, or boggling at the Land Forces (whereof the eight new raised Regiments were upon the request of the Commons at last disbanded) or employed in further Bills against Popery, and for the

the Education, and Protestant Marriage henceforward of those of the Royal Family; the necessity of their further sitting seemed not so urgent, but that they might have a repose till the tenth of *November* 1674. following.

The Conspirators had hitherto failed of the accomplishing their design, by perpetual disappointments, and which was most grievous to them, foresaw, that the want of mony would still necessitate the frequent sitting of Parliament, which danger they had hoped long ere this to have conquered. In this state of their affairs the *French* King therefore was by no means to be further disobl'ged, he being the Master of their secret, and the only person which if they helped him at this plunge, might yet carry them thorow. They were therefore very diligent to profit themselves of all the advantages to this purpose that their present posture could afford them. They knew that his Majesty being now disengaged from War, would of his Royal Prudence interpose for Peace by his Mediation, it being the most glorious Character that any Prince can assume, and for which he was the more proper, as being the most Potent, thereby to give the sway, and the most disinterested whereby to give the Equity requisite to such a Negotiation; and the most obliged in Honour, as having been the occasion by an unforeseen consequence of drawing the sword of all this part of *Europe*. But if they feared any propension in his Majesty to one party, it was toward *Spain*, as knowing how that Crown (as it is at large recited, and acknowledged, in the preamble of the last Treaty between *England* and *Holland*) had been the only instrument of the happy Peace which after that pernicious War we now enjoyed.

Therefore they were resolved by all their influence, and industry (though the profit of the War did now wholly, redound to the *English* Nation, and however in case of peace it was our interest, that if any, *France* should be depressed to any equality) to labour that by this Mediation *France* might be the onely gainer, and having all quiet about him, might be at perfect leisure to attend their project upon *England*. And one
of

of these our State men being pressed, solved all Arguments to the contrary with an oraculous *French* question

Faut il que tout se fasse par Politique, rien par Amitié?

Must all things be done by *Maxims* or *Reasons of State*, nothing for *Affection*?

Therefore that such an absurdity as the ordering of Affairs abroad, according to the Interest of our Nation might be avoided, the *English*, *Scotch* and *Irish* Regiments, that were already in the *French* Service, were not only to be kept in their full Complement, but new numbers of Souldiers daily transported thither, making up in all, (as is related) at least a constant Body of *Ten thousand Men*, of his Majesties Subjects, and which oftentimes turned the Fortune of Battle on the *French* side by their Valour.

How far this either consisted with the Office of a Mediator, or how consonant it was to the seventh Article above mentioned, of the last Treaty with *Holland*; It is for them to demonstrate who were the Authors. But it was indeed a good way to train up an Army, under the *French* Discipline and Principles, who might be ready seasoned upon occasion in *England*, to be called back and execute the same Counsels.

In the mean time, they would be trying yet what they could do at home. For the late proceedings of *Parliament*, in quashing the Indulgence, in questioning Ministers of State, in Bills against *Papery*, in not granting Money whensoever asked, were Crimes not to be forgiven, nor (however the Conspirators had provided for themselves) named in the Act of General Pardon.

They began therefore after fifteen Years to remember that there were such a sort of men in *England* as the Old Cavalier Party, and reckoned, that by how much the more generous, they were more credulous than others, and so more fit to be again abused. These were told, that all was at Stake, Church and State. (How truly said! But meant, how falsely.) That the Nation was running again into *Fourty One*, That this was the time to refresh their antient merit, and

receive

receive the Recompence double of all their Loyalty, and that hence forward the Cavaliers should have the Lottery of all the Great or Small Offices in the Kingdom, and not so much as Sir *Joseph Williamson* to have a share in it.

By this means they indeed designed to have raised a Civil War, for which they had all along provided, by new Forts, and standing Forces, and to which they had on purpose both in *England* and *Scotland* given all provocation if it would have been taken, that so they might have a *Rase Campagne* of Religion, Government, and Propriety: or they hoped at least by this means to fright the one party, and incourage the other, to give henceforward Money at pleasure, and that money on what title soever granted, with what stamp coined, might be melted down for any other service or uses. But there could not have been a greater affront and indignity offered to those Gentlemen, (and the best did so resent it) then whether these hopes were real, to think them men that might be hired to any base action, or whether as hitherto but imaginary, that by erecting the late Kings Statue that whole Party might be rewarded in Effigie.

While these things were upon the Anvil the tenth of November was come for the Parliaments sitting, but that was put off till the 13th of April 1675: And in the mean time, which fell out most opportune for the Conspirators, these Counsels were matured, and something further to be contrived, that was yet wanting: The Parliament accordingly meeting, and the House of Lords, as well as that of the Commons, being in deliberation of several wholesome Bills, such as the present state of the Nation required, the great Design came out in a Bill unexpectedly offered one morning in the House of Lords, whereby all such as enjoyed any beneficial Office, or Employment, Ecclesiastical, Civil or Military, to which was added, Privy Counsellours, Justices of the Peace, and Members of Parliament, were under a Penalty to take the Oath, and make the Declaration, and Abhorrence, insuing,

I A. B. Do declare, That it is not Lawful upon any pretence whatsoever to take up Armes against the King, and that I do abhorre that Traiterous position, of taking Armes by his Authority against his Person, or against those that are Commissioned by him in Pursuance of such Commission. And I do swear, that I will not at any time Indearour the Alteration of the Government either in Church or State. So help me God.

This same Oath had been brought into the House of Commons in the Plague year at Oxford, to have been imposed upon the Nation; but there, by the assistance of those very same persons, that now introduce it, 'twas thrown out, for fear of a General Infection of the Vitales of this Kingdom: And though it passed then in a particular Bill, known by the name of the *Five-mile Act*, because it only concerned the Non-conformist Preachers, yet even in that, it was thoroughly opposed by the late Earl of Southampton, whose Judgement might well have been reckoned for the *Standard of Prudence and Loyalty*. It was indeed happily said, by the Lord Keeper, in the opening of this Session; *No Influences of the Starrs, no Configuration of the Heavens, are to be feared, so long as these two Houses stand in a Good Disposition to each other, and both of them in a happy Conjunction, with their Lord and Sovereign*. But if he had so early this Act in his prospect, the same *Astrology* might have taught him, that there is nothing more portentous, and of worse *Omen*, then when such an Oath hangs over a Nation, like a New *Comet* forboding the Alteration of Religion, or Government: Such was the *Holy League* in France in the Reign of Henry the third. Such in the time of Philip the second, the Oath in the *Netherlands*. And so the Oaths in our late Kings time taught the Fansticks, because they could not swear, yet to Covenant. Such things therefore are, if ever, not needlessly thought for good fortune sake only to be attempted, and when was there any thing less necessary? No King of *England* had ever so great a Treasure of this Peoples Affections, except what those ill men have, as they have done all the rest, consumed; whom but out of an excess of Love to

his Person, the Kingdom would never (for it never did formerly) so long have suffered: The Old Acts of Allegiance and Supremacy were still in their full Vigour, unless against the Papists, and even against them too of late, whensoever the way was to be smoothed for a liberal Session of Parliament. And moreover to put the Crown in full security, this Parliament had by an Act of theirs determined a Question which the wisdom of their Ancestors had never decided, that the King hath the sole power of the *Militia*. And therefore my Lord Keeper did by his patronizing this Oath, too grossly prevaricate, against two very good *State Maxims*, in his *Harangue* to the Parliament, for which he had consulted not the *Astrologer*, but the *Historian*, advising them first, That they should not *Quieta movere*, that is, said he, *when men stirre those things or Questions which are, and ought to be in peace*. And secondly, That they should not *Res parvas magnis motibus agere*: That is, saith he again, *when as much weight is laid upon a new and not always necessary Proposition, as if the whole summe of affairs depended upon it*.

And this Oath, it seems was the little thing he meant of, being forsooth but a *Moderate Security to the Church and Crown*, as he called it, but which he and his party layd so much weight on, as if the whole sum of Affairs did depend upon it.

But as to the *Quieta movere*, or stirring of those things or Questions which are and ought to be in Peace, was not this so, of taking Armes against the King upon any pretence whatsoever? And was not that also in Peace, of the *Traiterous Position* of taking Armes by his Authority against his Person? Had not the three Acts of *Corporations*, of *Militia*, and the *Five Miles*, sufficiently quieted it? Why was it further stirred? But being stirred, it raises in mens thoughts many things more; some less, others more to the purpose.

Sir *Walter Tirrells* Arrow grazed upon the Deer it was shot at, but by that chance kill'd King *William Rufus*; Yet so far was it that Sir *Walter* should for that chance shot be adjudged of Treason, that we do not perceive he underwent any other

other Tryal like that of *Manſlaughter*: But which is more to the point, it were difficult to inſtance a Law either in this or other Country, but that a private Man, if any King in Chriſtendom aſſault him, may having retreated to the Wall, ſtand upon his Guard; and therefore, in this matter as to a particular man be dubious, it was not ſo prudent to *ſtirre* it in the General, being ſo well ſerled. And as to all other things, though ſince Lord Chancellour, he have in his Speech of the 15th of Feb. One thouſand ſix hundred ſeventy ſix, ſaid (to teſtify his own abhorrencey) *Away with that ill man's diſtinction between the Natural and the Politique Capacity*. He is too well read to be ignorant that without that Diſtinction there would be no Law nor Reason of Law left in *England*; To which end it was, and to put all out of doubt, that it is alſo required in this *Teſt*, to declare mens abhorrencey as of a *Traiterous Poſition*, to take Armes againſt thoſe that are Commiſſioned by him, in purſuance of ſuch Commiſſion; and yet neither is the Tenour, or Rule, of any ſuch Commiſſion ſpecified, nor the Qualification of thoſe that ſhall be armed with ſuch Commiſſions, expreſſed or limited. Never was ſo much ſence contained in ſo few words. No Conveyancer could ever in more Compendious or binding terms have drawn a Diſſetlement of the whole Birth-right of *England*.

For as to the Commiſſion, if it be to take away any mans Eſtate, or his Life by force, yet it is the Kings Commiſſion: Or if the Perſon Commiſſionate, be under never ſo many Diſſabilities by Acts of Parliament, yet his taking this Oath, removes all thoſe Incapacities, or his Commiſſion makes it not Diſputable. But if a man ſtand upon his Defence, a good Judge for the purpoſe, finding that the Poſition is *Traiterous*, will declare that by this Law, he is to be Executed for Treason.

Theſe things are no Niceties, or remote Conſiderations (though in making of Laws, and which muſt come afterwards under Conſtruction of Judges; *Durante bene-placito*, all Caſes are to be put and imagined) but there being an Act in *Scotland* for *Twenty thouſand Men* to March into *England* upon

upon Call, and so great a Body of *English* Souldery in *France*, within Summons, besides what *Forainers* may be obliged by Treaty to furnish; and it being so fresh in memory, what sort of persons had lately been in Commission among us, to which add the many Books then Printed by Licence, Writ, some by Men of the *Black*, one of the *Green-Cloath*, wherein the Absoluteness of the *English* Monarchy is against all Law asserted.

All these Considerations put together, were sufficient to make any honest and well-advised man, to conceive indeed, that upon the passing of this Oath and Declaration, *the whole sum of Affairs depended.*

It grew therefore to the greatest contest, that has perhaps ever been in Parliament, wherein those Lords, that were against this Oath, being assured of their own Loyalty and Merit, stood up now for the *English* Liberties with the same Genius, Virtue and Courage, that their Noble Ancestors had formerly defended the *Great Charter of England*, but with so much greater Commendation, in that they had here a fairer Field, and the more Civil way of Decision: They fought it out under all the disadvantages imaginable: They were overlaid by Numbers, the noise of the House, like the Wind was against them, and if not the Sun, the Fire-side was alwayes in their Faces; nor being so few, could they, as their Adversaries, withdraw to refresh themselves in a whole days Engagement: Yet never was there a clearer Demonstration how dull a thing is humane Eloquence, and Greatness, how little, when the bright Truth discovers all things in their proper Colours and Dimensions, and shining shoors its Beams thorow all their Fallacies. It might be injurious where all of them did so excellently well, to attribute more to any one of those Lords than another, unless because the Duke of *Buckingham*, and the Earl of *Shaftsbury*, have been the more reproached for this brave Action, it be requisite by a double proportion of Praise, to set them two on equal terms with the rest of their Companions in Honour. The particular Relation of this Debate, which lasted many days with great eagerness

on both sides, and the Reasons but on one, was in the next Session burnt by Order of the Lords; but the Sparkes of it will eternally fly in their Adversaries faces.

Now before this *Test* could in so vigorous an opposition pass the House of Peers, there arose unexpectedly a great Controversy betwixt the two Houses, concerning their Priviledges on this occasion; The Lords according to their undoubted Right, being the Supream Court of Judicature in the Nation, had up in Petition of Doctor *Shirley*, taken cognizance of a Cause between him and *Sir John Fagg*, a Member of the House of Commons, and of other Appeals from the Court of Chancery, which the Commons, whether in good earnest, which I can hardly believe; or rather some crafty Parliament men among them, having an eye upon the *Test*, and to prevent the hazard of its coming among them, presently took hold of, and blew the Coales to such a degree, that there was no quenching them.

In the House of Peers both Partyes, as in a point of their own Priviledge, easily united, and were no less inflamed against the Commons, and to uphold their own ancient Jurisdiction, wherein nevertheless both the Lords for the *Test*, and those against it, had their own particular reasons, and might have accused each other perhaps of some artifice, The matter in conclusion was so husbanded on all sides, that any longer converse betwixt the two Houses grew impracticable, and his Majesty Prorogued them therefore till the 13th of October 1675 following: And in this manner that fatal *Test* which had given so great disturbance to the minds of our Nation, dyed the *second Death* which in the language of the Divines, is as much as to say, it was *Damned*.

The House of Commons had not in that Session been wanting to Vote 300000 l. towards the building of Ships, and to draw a Bill for appropriating the Ancient *Tonnage* and *Powdrage*, amounting to 400000 l. yearly to the use of the Navy, as it ought in Law already; and had been granted formerly upon that special Trust and Confidence; but neither did that

300000 l.

300000 l. although Competent at present, and but an earnest for future meeting, seem considerable, and had it been more, yet that Bill of appropriating any thing to its true use, was a sufficient cause to make them both miscarry, but upon pretence of the quarrel between the Lords and Commons in which the Session thus ended.

The Conspirators had this interval to reflect upon their own affairs. They saw that the King of *France* (as they called him) was so busy abroad, that he could not be of farther use; yet to them here, then by his directions, while his Armies were by assistance of the *English* Forces, several times saved from ruins. They considered that the *Test* was defeated, by which the Papists hoped to have had *Reprisals* for that of *Transubstantiation*, and the Conspirators to have gained Commission, as extensive and arbitrary, as the malice of their own hearts could dictate: That herewith they had missed of a Legality to have raised money without Consent of Parliament, or to imprison or execute whosoever should oppose them in pursuance of such their Commission. They knew it was in vain to expect that his Majesty in that want, or rather opinion of want, which they had reduced him to, should be diverted from holding this Session of Parliament: nor were they themselves for this once wholly averse to it. For they presumed either way to find their own account, that if money were granted it should be attributed to their influence, and remain much within their disposal, but if not granted, that by joining this with other accidents of Parliament, they might so represent things to his Majesty as to incense him against them, and distrusting all Parliamentary Advice to take Counsel from themselves, from *France*, and from Necessity.

And in the mean time they fomented all the Jealousies which they caused. They continued to inculcate *Fury* and *One* in Court and Country.

Those that refused all the money they demanded, were to be the only Recusants, and all that asserted the Liberties of the Nation, were to be reckoned in the *Class* of *Presbyterians*.

The 1st of October came, and his Majesty now asked not only a Supply for his building of Ships, as formerly, but further, to take off the *Anticipation* upon his *Revenue*.

The House of Commons took up again such Publick Bills as they had on foot in their former sitting, and others that might either Remedy Present, or Prevent Future Mischiefs.

The Bill for *Habeas Corpus*.

That against sending men Prisoners beyond Sea.

That against raising Money without Consent of Parliament.

That against Papists sitting in either House.

Another Act for Speed or convicting of Papists.

That for recalling his Majestyes Subjects out of the *French* service, &c. And as to his Majestyes supply, they proceeded in their former Method of the two Bills, One for raising 300000 *l*. and the other for Appropriating the *Tonnage* and *Powdage* to the use of the Navy.

And in the Lords House there was a good disposition towards things of Publick Interest: But 300000 *l*. was so infold a thing to those who had been continually regaled with Millions, and that Act of Appropriation, with some others, went so much against Romack that there wanted only an opportunity to reject them, and that which was readiest at hand was the late quarrel betwixt the House of Lords and the Commons. The House of Commons did now more peremptorily then ever, oppose the Lords Jurisdiction in Appeals: The Lords on the other side were resolved not to depart from so essential a Priviledge and Authority, but to proceed in the Exercise of it: So that this Dispute was raised to a greater Ardure and Contention then ever, and there appeared no way of accommodation. Hereupon the Lords were in consultation for an Address to his Majesty, containing many weighty Reasons for his Majestyes dissolving this Parliament, deduced from the nature and behaviour of the present House of Commons: But his Majesty, although the transaction between the two Houses was at present become impracticable, Judging that this House might at some other

time be of use to him, chose only to Prorogue the Parliament. The blame of it was not only laid, but aggravated, upon those in both Houses, but especially on the Lords House, who had most vigorously opposed the French and Popish Interest. But those who were present at the Lords, and observed the conduct of the Great Ministers there, conceived of it otherwise; And as to the House of Commons, who in the heat of the Contest had Voted,

That whosoever shall Solicite or prosecute any Appeal against any Commoner of England, from any Court of Equity before the House of Lords, shall be deemed and taken a betrayer of the Rights and Liberties of the Commons of England, and shall be proceeded against accordingly.

Their Speaker, going thorow Westminster-Hall to the House, and looking down upon some of those Lawyers commanded his Mace to seize them, and led them up Prisoners with him, which it is presumed, that he being of his Majesties Privy-Councill, would not have done, but for what some men call his Majesties Service; And yet it was the highest, this, of all the Provocations which the Lords had received in this Controversie. But however, this fault ought to be divided, there was a greater committed in Proroguing the Parliament, from the 22th. of November 1675. unto the 15th. of February 1676. And holding it after that dissolution, there being no Record of any such thing done since the being of Parliaments in England, and the whole Reason of Law no less then the Practice and Custome holding Contrary.

This vast space betwixt the meetings of Parliament cannot more properly be filled up, then with the coherence of those things abroad and at home, that those that are intelligent may observe whether the Conspirators found any interruption, or did not rather sure this event also to the Continuance of their Counsels. The Earl of Northampton is not to be esteemed as one engaged in those Counsels, being a person of too great Honour, though the advancing of him to be

Constable of the Tower, was the first of our Domestick occurrences. But if they could have any hand in it, 'tis more probable that lest he might perceive their Contrivances, they apparelled him in so much Wall to have made him insensible. However men conjectured even then by the Quality of the Keeper, that he was not to be disparaged with any mean and vulgar Prisoners. But another thing was all along very remarkable. That during this Inter-Parliament, there were five Judges places either fell, or were made vacant (for it was some while before that Sir *Francis North* had been created Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas) the five that succeeded, were Sir *Richard Rainsford*, Lord Chief Justice of the *Kings Bench*. *Mountague*, Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer. *Vere Bartie*, Barrister at Law, one of the Barons of the Exchequer. Sir *William Scroggs*, one of the Justices of the Common Pleas. And Sir *Thomas Fones*, one of the Justices of the *Kings Bench*. Concerning all whom there is something too much to be said; and it is not out of a figure of speech, but for meer reverence of their Profession that I thus pass it over, considering also humane infirmity, and that they are all by their Patrons, *Durante Bene Placito*, bound as it were, to the Good Behaviour. And it is a shame to think what trivial, and to say the best of them, obscure persons have and do stand next in prospect, to come and sit by them. Justice *Atkins* also by Warping too far towards the Laws, was in danger upon another pretense to have made way for some of them, but upon true Repentance and Contrition, with some *Almes Deeds*, was admitted to Mercy; And all the rest of the Bench will doubtless have profited much by his, and some other example. Alas the Wisdom and Probity of the Law went off for the most part with good Sir *Matthew Hales*, and Justice is made a meer property. This poysonous Arrow strikes to the very heart of Government, and could come from no Quiver but that of the Conspirators. What *French Counsels*, what standing Forces, what Parliamentary Bribes, what National Oaths, and all other Machinations of wicked men have

not yet been able to effect, may be more compendiously Acted by twelve Judges in Scarlet.

The next thing considerable that appeared preparatory for the next Session, was a Book that came out by publick Authority, intituled, *Considerations touching the true way to suppress Popery, &c.* A very good design, and writ, I believe, by a very good man, but under some misapprehensions, which are not to be passed over. One in the Preface, wherein he saith, *The Favour here proposed in behalf of the Romanists, is not more than they enjoy among Protestants abroad at this day.* This I take not to be true either in Denmark or Sweden and some other Countries where Popery is wholly suppressed, and therefore is that have been effected there, in ways of prudence and consistency with Christianity, it ought not to have been in so general words misrepresented.

Another is, p. 59. and 60. a thing ill and dangerously said, concluding, *I know but one Instance, that of David in Gath, of a man that was put to all these straits, and yet not corrupted in his principles.* When there was a more illustrious Example near him, and more obvious.

What else I have to say in passing, is, as to the Groundwork of his whole design, which is to bring men nearer, as by a distinction betwixt the Church and Court of Rome, a thing long attempted, but ineffectually, it being the same thing as to distinguish betwixt the Church of England, and the English Bishops, which cannot be separated. But the intension of the Author, was doubtless very honest, and the English of that Profession, are certainly of all Papists the most sincere and most worthy of favour; but this seemed no proper time to negotiate further than the Publick Convenience.

There was another Book likewise that came out by Authority, towards the Approach of the Session, intituled, *A Packet of Advice to the Men of Shafsbury, &c.* But the name of the Author was concealed, not out of any spark of modesty, but that he might with more security exercise his impudence, not so much against those Noble Lords, as against all publick

Truth and Honesty. The whole composition is nothing else but an Infusion of Malice, in the Proach of the Town and the Scum of the *University*, by the Prescription of the Conspirators. Nor therefore did the Book deserve naming, no more then the Author, but that they should rot together in their own Infamy, had not the first events of the following Session made it remarkable, that the Wizard dealt with some Superior Intelligence.

And on the other side, some scattering papers straggled out in Print, as is usual for the information of Parliament men, in the matter of Law concerning Prorogation, which all of them, it is to be presumed, understood not, but was like to prove therefore a great Question.

As to matters abroad from the Year 1674. That the Peace was concluded betwixt *England* and *Holland*; the *French King*, as a mark of his displeasure, and to humble the *English Nation*, let Loose his Privateers among our Merchant men there, was thenceforth no security of Commerce or Navigation, notwithstanding the publick Amity betwixt the two Crowns, but at Sea they Murthred, Plundered, made Prize and Confiscated those they met with. Their Privateers laid before the mouth of our Rivers, hovered all along the Coast, took our Ships in the very Ports, that we were in a manner blocked up by Water. And if any made application at his Sovereign Port for Justice, they were insolently baffled, except some few, that by *Sir Ellis Leighton's* Interest, who made a second prize of them, were redeemed upon easier Composition. In this manner it continued from 1674, till the latter end of 1676 without remedy, even till the time of the Parliaments Sitting: so that men doubted whether even the Conspirators were not Complices also in the matter; and found partly their own account in it. For evidence of what is said, formerly, the Paper at the end of this Treatise annexed may serve, returned by some Members of the Privy-Council to his Majesties Order, to which was also adjoined a Register of so many of the *English Ships* as then came to notice.

notice which the *French* had taken, (and to this day continue to treacherous Merchants at the same rate.) And yet all this while that they made these intolerable and barbarous Practices, and depredations upon his Majesties Subjects, from hence they were more diligently then ever supplied with Recruits, and those that would go voluntarily into the French service were encouraged, others that would not, pressed, imprisoned, and carried over by main force, and constraint, even as the Parliament here was ready to sit down; notwithstanding all their former frequent applications to the contrary: And his Majesties Magazines were daily emptied, to furnish the *French* with all sorts of Ammunition, of which the following note contains but a small parcel, in comparison of what was daily conveyed away, under colour of Coffers for *Farsy*, and other places:

A short Account of some Ammunition, &c. Exported from the Port of London to France, from June 1675. to June 1677.

Granadoes without number, Shipt off under the colour of unwrought Iron.

Lead Shot 21 Tuns.

Gunpowder 7134 Barrels.

Iron Shot 18 Tun, 600 Weight.

Match 88 Tun, 1900 Weight.

Iron Ordinance 441 Quantity, 292 Tuns, 900 Weight.

Carriages, Bandileirs, Pikes, &c. uncertain.

Thus was the *French* King to be gratified for undoing us by Sea with contributing all that we could rap and rend of Men, or Ammunition at Land, to make him more potent against us, and more formidable.

Thus are we at length arrived at this much controverted, and as much expected Session. And though the way of it hath proved much longer then was intended in the entry of this discourse, yet it is very short of what the matter would have afforded, but is past over to keep within bounds of this

Column. The 15th of February 1676 came, and that very same day the French King appointed his March for Flanders. It seemed that his motions were in full Cadence, and that as in a Grand Ballet, he kept time with those that were tuned here to his measure. And he thought it a becoming Galant-rie, to take the rest of Flanders out natural out work in the very face of the King of England and his Petites Maisons of Parliament.

His Majesty demanded of the Parliament in his Speech at the opening of the Sessions, a Supply for building of Ships, and the further continuance of the Additional Excise upon Beer and Ale, which was to expire the 24th. of June 1677, and recommended earnestly a good correspondence between the two Houses, representing their last Differences as the reason of so long a Prorogation, to allay them. The Lord Chancellor, as is usual with him, spoiled all, which the King had said so well, with straining to do it better. For indeed the mischances of all the Sessions since he had the Seales, may in great part be ascribed to his indiscreet and unlucky Eloquence. And had not the Lord Treasurer a farre more effectual way of Persuasion with the Commons, there had been the same danger of the Success of this Meeting, as of those formerly. Each House being now seated, the case of this long Prorogation had taken place so far without doors, and was of that consequence to the Constitution of all Parliaments, and the Validity of all proceedings in this Session, that even the Commons, though sore against their inclination, could not pass it over. But they handled it so tenderly, as if they were afraid to touch it. The first day, instead of the Question, Whether the Parliament were by this unprecedented Prorogation indeed dissolved, it was proposed, somewhat ridiculously, Whether this Prorogation were not an Adjournment. And this Debate too, they Adjourned till the next day, and from thence they put it off till the Monday morning. Then those that had proposed it, yet before they would enter upon the Debate, asked Whether they might have liberty, as if that had not been

more

more then implied before, by Adjourning the Debate, and as if Freedom of Speech, were not a Concession of Right, which the King grants at the first opening of all Parliaments. But by this taintness, and half-counsel, they taught the House to deny them it. And so all that matter was wrapped up in a cleanly Question, Whether their grand Committees should sit, which involving the Legitimacy of the Houses Sitting, was carried in the Affirmative, as well as their own hearts could wish: But in the Lords House it went otherwise. For the first day, as soon as the Houses were separate, the *Duke of Buckingham*, who usually saith what he thinks, argued by all the Laws of Parliament, and with great strength of Reason, that this *Prorogation* was Null, and this Parliament consequently Dissolved, offering moreover to maintain it to all the Judges, and desiring as had been usual in such Cases, but would not here be admitted, that even they might give their opinions. But my Lord *Frechwell* as a better Judge of so weighty a point in Law, did of his great Courtship move, That the *Duke of Buckingham* might be called to the Barr, which being opposed by the Lord *Salisbury*, as an extravagant motion; but the *Duke of Buckingham's* proposal asserted, with all the *Cecilian* height of Courage and Reason, the Lord *Arundell* of *Trerise* a Peer of no less consideration, and Authority then my Lord *Frechwell*, and as much out of order, as if the Salt had been thrown down, or an Hare had crossed his way, Opening, renewed the motion for calling the *Duke* to the Barr; But there were yet too many Lords between, and the *Couriers* of the House of Commons brought up advice every moment, that the matter was yet in agitation among them; So that the Earl of *Shaftsbury* had opportunity to appear with such extraordinary vigour, in what concerned both the *Duke of Buckingham's* person and his Proposal, that as the *Duke of Buckingham* might have stood single in any rational contest, so the Earl of *Shaftsbury* was more properly another Principal, than his Second. The Lord *Chancellor* therefore in answer undertook on the contrary, to make the

Proro-

Prorogation look very formal, laying the best colours upon it, after his manner when Advocate, that the Cause would bear (and the worst upon his Opponents) but such as could never yet endure the Day-light. Thus for five or six hours it grew a fixed Debate, many arguing it in the regular method, till the expected news came, that the Commons were rose without doing any thing, whereupon the greater number called for the Question, and had it in the Affirmative, that the Debate should be laid aside.

And being thus flushed, but not satisfied with their Victory, they fell upon their Adversaries in cool blood, questioning such as they thought fit, that same night, and the morrow after, sentencing them, the Duke of *Buckingham*, the *Earl of Salisbury*, the *Earl of Sheshbury*, and the *Lord Wharton* to be committed to the Tower, under the notion of Contempt, during his Majesties, and the Houses pleasure. That Contempt, was their refusing to recant their Opinion, and ask pardon of the King, and the House of Lords. Thus a *Prorogation* without President was to be warranted by an Imprisonment without Example. A sad Instance and whereby the Dignity of Parliaments, and especially of the House of Peers, did at present much suffer, and may probably more for the future; For nothing but Parliament can destroy Parliament, If a House shall once be Felson of it self and stop its own breath, taking away that Liberty of speech, which the King verbally, and of course allows them, (as now they had done in both Houses) to what purpose is it coming thither? But it was now over, and by the weakness in the House of Commons, and the Force in the House of Lords, this Presumptuous Session was thus farre settled and confirmed; so that henceforward men began to wipe their Mouths, as if nothing had been, and to enter upon the Publick Business.

And yet it is remarkable that shortly after, upon occasion of a discourse among the Commons, concerning *Libells* and *Pamphlets*; first one Member of them stood up, and in the face of their House, said, *That it was affirmed to him, by a person*
 I that

that might be spoke with, that there were among them thirty, forty, fifty (God knows how many) outlawed. Another thereupon rose, and told them: *It was reported too, that there were diverse of the Members Papists; A third, That a multitude of them were Bribed, and Pensioners.* And yet all this was patiently hushed up by their House, and digested, being it seems, a thing of that Nature, which there is no Reply to; which may very well administer, and deserve a serious Reflexion, how great an opportunity this House of Commons lost, of ingratiating themselves with the Nation, by acknowledging in this Convention their invalidity to proceed in Parliament, and by addressing to his Majesty as being *Dissolved for a Dismission.* For were it so, that all the Laws of *England* require, and the very Constitution of our Government, as well as Experience, teaches the necessity of the frequent Meeting, and change of *Parliaments*, and suppose that the Question concerning this *Prorogation*, were by the Custom of *Parliaments* to be justified, (which hath not been done hitherto) yet who that desires to maintain the reputation of an honest man, would not have layed hold upon so plausible an occasion, to break company when it was grown so Scandalous. For it is too notorious to be concealed, that near a third part of the House have beneficial Offices under his Majesty, in the Privy Council, the Army, the Navy, the Law, the Household, the Revenue both in *England* and *Ireland*, or in attendance on his Majesties person. These are all of them indeed to be esteemed Gentlemen of Honor, but more or less according to the quality of their several employments under his Majesty, and it is to be presumed that they brought along with them some Honour of their own into his service, at first to set up with. Nor is it fit that such an Assembly should be destitute of them to inform the Commons of his Majesties affairs, and communicate his Counsels, so that they do not by irregular procuring of Elections in place where they have no proper interest, thrust out the Gentlemen that have, and thereby disturb the several Countreys; Nor that they croude into the House in numbers beyond

beyond modesty, and which instead of giving a Temper to their deliberations, may seem to affect the Predominance. For although the House of Peers, besides their supream and sole Judicature, have an equal power in the Legislature with the House of Commons, and as the second Thoughts in the Government have often corrected their errors: yet it is to be confessed, that the Knights, Citizens and Burgeses there assembled, are the Representers of the People of *England*, and are more peculiarly impowred by them to transact concerning the Religion, Lives, Liberties, and the Propriety of the Nation. And therefore no Honorable person, related to his Majesties more particular service, but will in that place and opportunity suspect himself, least his Gratitude to his Master, with his self-interest should tempt him beyond his obligation there to the Publick. The same excludes him that may next inherit from being Guardian to an Infant, not but there may the same affection and integritie be found in those of the Fathers side as those on the Mothers, but out of decent and humane caution, and in like manner however his Majesties Officers may be of, as sound and untainted reputation, as the best, yet common Discretion would teach them not to seek after, and ingross such different Trusts in those bordering Interests of the King and Countrey, where from the People they have no Legal advantage, but so much may be gained by betraying them. How improper would it seem for a Privy Counsellour, if in the House of Commons he should not justify the most arbitrary Proceedings of the Councill Table, represent affairs of State with another face, defend any misgovernment, patronize the greatest Offenders against the Kingdom, even though they were too his own particular enemies, and extend the supposed Prerogative on all occasions, to the detriment of the Subjects certain and due Liberties! What self-denial were it in the Learned Counsel at Law, did they not vindicate the Misdemeanours of the Judges, perplex all Remedies against the Corruptions and In-croachment of Courts of Judicature, Word all Acts towards

the Advantage of their own Profession, palliate unlawful Elections, extenuate and advocate Publick Crimes, where the Criminal may prove considerable: step into the chair of a Money-Bill, and open the Clauses so dubiously, that they may be interpretable in *Westminster-Hall* beyond the Houses intencion, mislead the House, not only in point of Law, but even in matter of Fact, without any respect to *Veracity*, but all to his own further Promotion! What Souldier in Pay, but might think himself fit to be cashiered, should he oppose the increase of Standing Forces, the Depression of Civil Authority, or the Levying of Money by whatsoever means or in what Quantiry: Or who of them ought not to abhor that Traiterous Position, of taking Armes by the Kings Authority against those that are Commissionated by him in pursuance of such Commission: What Officer of the Navy, but takes himself under Obligation to magnify the expence, extol the management, conceal the neglect, increase the Debts and press the Necessity, rigging and unrigging it to the House in the same moment, and representing it all at once in a good and a bad condition: should any Member of Parliament and of the Exchequer omit to transform the Accounts, conceal the Issues, heighten the Anticipations, and in despite of himself, oblige whosoever chance to be the Lord Treasurer might not his Reversioner justly expect to be put into present Possession of the Office: Who that is either concerned in the Customs, or of their Brethren of the Excise, can with any decency refuse, if they do not invent all further Impositions upon Merchandise, Navigation, or our own domestick Growth and Consumption; and if the Charge be but Temporary, to perpetuate it? Hence it shall come that instead of relieving the Crown by the good old and certain way of Subsidies, wherein nothing was to be got by the House of Commons, they devised this Foraine course of Revenue, to the great Grievance and double charge of the People, that so many of the Members might be gratified in the Earmies or Commissions.

But to conclude this digression whatsoever other Offices have been set up for the use of the Members, or have been extinguished upon occasion, should they have failed at a Question, did not they deserve to be turned out? Were not all the Votes as it were in *Fee Farm*, of those that were intrusted with the sale? Must not *Surinam* be a sufficient cause of quarrel with *Holland*, to any Commissioner of the Plantations? Or who would have denyed Money to continue the War with *Holland*, when he were a Commissioner of Prizes, of Sick and Wounded, of Transporting the *English*, or of Starving the *Dutch* Prisoners? How much greater then would the hardship be for those of his Majesties Household, or who attend upon his Royal Person, to forget by any chance Vote, or in being absent from the House, that they are his Domestick servants? Or that all those of the capacity abovementioned are to be lookt upon as a distinct Body under another Discipline, and whatsoever they may commit in the House of Commons against the National Interest, they take themselves to be justified by their Circumstances; their hearts indeed are, they say, with the Country, and one of them had the boldness to tell his Majesty, That he was come from Voting in the House *Against his Conscience*.

And yet these Gentlemen being full, and already in Employment, are more good natured and less dangerous to the Publick, than those that are hungry and out of Office, who may by probable computation make another Third part of this House of Commons. Those are such as having observed by what steps, or rather leaps and strides, others of their House have ascended into the highest Places of the Kingdom, do upon measuring their own Birth, Estates, Parts, and Merit, think themselves as well and better qualified in all respects as their former Companions. They are generally men, who by speaking against the *French*, inveighing against the Debaucheries of Court, talking of the ill management of the Revenue, and such Popular flourishes, have cheated the Countreys into Electing them, and when they come up, if they

they can speak in the House, they make a faint attack or two upon some great Minister of State, and perhaps relieve some other that is in danger of Parliament, to make themselves either way considerable.

In matters of money they seem at first difficult, but having been discours'd with in private, they are set right, and begin to understand it better themselves, and to convert their Brethren: For they are all of them to be bought and sold, only their Number makes them cheaper, and each of them doth so overvalue himself, that sometimes they outstand or let slip their own Market.

It is not to be imagin'd, how small things in this case, even Members of great Estates will stoop at, and most of them will do as much for Hopes, as others for Fruition; but if their patience be tired out, they grow at last mutinous, and revolt to the Country, till some better occasion offer.

Among these are some men of the best understanding, were they of equal integrity, who affect to ingross all business, to be able to quash any good motion by Parliamentary skill, unless themselves be the Authors, and to be the leading men of the House, and for their natural Lives to continue so. But these are men that have been once fooled, most of them, and discovered, and slighted at Court, so that till some turn of State shall set them in their Adversaries Place, in the mean time they look Sullen, make big Motions, and contrive specious Bills for the Subject, yet only wait the opportunity to be the Instruments of the same Counsels, which they oppose in others.

There is a Third Part still remaining, but as contrary in themselves as Light and Darknes; Those are either the worst, or the best of Men; The first are most profligate persons, that have neither Estates, Consciences, nor good Manners, yet are therefore pick'd out as the necessary men, and whose Votes will go furthest; The charges of their Elections are defrayed, whatever they amount to, Tables are kept for them at *White-Hall*, and through *Westminster*, that they may

be ready at hand, within Call of a Question: All of them are received into Pension, and know their Pay day, which they never faile of: Inſomuch that a great Officer was pleaſed to ſay, *That they came about him like ſo many Fack-daws for Cheeſe, at the end of every Seſſion.* If they be not in Parliament, they muſt be in Priſon, and as they are Protected themſelves by Priviledge, ſo they ſell their Protections to others, to the obſtruction for many years together of the Law of the Land, and the publick Juſtice; For theſe it is, that the long and frequent Adjournments are calculated, but all whether the Court, or the Monopolizers of the Country Party, or thoſe that profane the title of Old Cavaliers, do equally, though upon differing reaſons, like Death apprehend a Diſſolution. But notwithstanding theſe, there is a handfull of *Salt*, a ſparkle of *Soul*, that hath hitherto preſerved this groſs Body from Putrefaction, ſome *Gentlemen* that are conſtant, inva-
riable, indeed *Engliſh* men, ſuch as are above *hopes*, or *fears*, or *diſſimulation*, that can neither flatter, nor betray their King, or Country: But being conſcious of their own Loyalty, and Integrity, proceed throw good and bad report, to acquit themſelves in their Duty to God, their Prince, and their Nation; Although ſo ſmall a Scantling in number, that men can ſcarce reckon of them more then a *Quorum*; Inſomuch that it is leſs difficult to conceive, how Fire was firſt brought to light in the World, then how any good thing could ever be produced out of an Houſe of Commons ſo conſtituted, unleſs as that is imagined to have come from the ruſhing of Trees, or battering of Rocks together, by accident, ſo theſe by their clashing with one another, have ſtruck out an uſeful effect from ſo unlikely cauſes. But whatſoever caſual good hath been wrought at any time by the aſſimilation of ambitious, factious, and diſappointed Members, to the little, but ſolid, and unbyaſſed Party, the more frequent ill effects, and conſequences of ſo unequal a mixture, ſo long continued, are demonſtrable and apparent: For while ſcarce any man comes thither with reſpect to the publick ſervice, but in deſign to
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make and raise his fortune; it is not to be exprest, the Debauchery, and Lewdness, which upon occasion of Election Parliaments, are now grown habitual thorow the Nation. So that the Vice, and the Expence are risen to such a prodigious height, that few sober men can indure to stand to be chosen on such conditions. From whence also arise Feuds and perpetual Animosities, over most of the Countyes, and Corporations, while Gentlemen of Worth, Spirit, and ancient Estates, and Dependances, see themselves overpowered in their own neighbourhood by the Drunkness and Bribery of their Competitors. But if nevertheless any worthy person chance to carry the Election, some mercenary or corrupt Sheriff makes a double Return, and so the Cause is handed to the Committee of Elections, who ask no better, but are ready to adopt his Adversary into the House if he be not Legitimate. And if the Gentlemen agrieved seek his Remedy against the Sheriff in *Westminster-Hall*, and the proofs be so palpable, that the Kings Bench cannot invent how to do him injustice, yet the major part of the twelve Judges, shall upon better consideration vacate the Sheriffs Fine, and reverse the Judgment; but those of them that dare dissent from their Brethren, are in danger to be turned off the Bench without any cause assigned. While men therefore care not thus, how they get into the House of Commons, neither can it be expected that they should make any conscience of what they do there, but they are only intent how to reimburse themselves (if their Elections were at their own charge) or how to bargain their Votes for a Place, or a Pension. They list themselves straight-ways into some Court faction, and it is as well known among them, to what Lord each of them retain, as when formerly they wore Coates, and Badges. By this long haunting so together they are grown too so familiar among themselves, that all reverence of their own Assembly is lost, that they live together not like Parliament men, but like so many Good-fellows met together in a Publick House to make merry. And which is yet worse, by being so thoroughly acquainted, they under-

understand their Number and Party, so that the use of so publick a Counsel is frustrated, there is no place for deliberation, no perswading by reason, but they can see one anothers Votes through both Throats and Cravats before they hear them.

Where the Cards are so well known, they are only fit for a Cheat, and no fair Gamster, but would throw them under the Table.

Hereby it is that their House hath lost all the antient weight and authority, and being conscious of their own guilt and weakness, dare not adventure, as heretofore, the Impeaching of any man before the Lords, for the most heinous crimes of State, and the most publick misdemeanours; upon which confidence it is, that the Conspirators have so long presumed, and gone unpunished. For although the Conspirators have sometimes (that this House might appear still necessary to the People, and to make the money more glib) yielded that even their own Names should be tossed among them, and Grievances be talked of, yet at the same time they have been so prevalent as to hinder any effect, and if the House has Emancipated it self beyond Instructions, then by Chastizing them with *Prorogations*, freighting them with *Dissolutions*, comforting them with long, frequent and seasonable *Adjournments*, now by suspending, or diminishing their pensions, then again by increasing them, sometimes by a scorn, and otherwhiles by a favour, there hath a way been found to reduce them again under discipline. All these things and more being considered and how doubtful a foot this Long Parliament now stood upon by this long *Prorogation*, there could not have been a more Legal, or however no more wise and honest a thing done, then for both the Lords and Common to have separated themselves, or have besought his Majesty to that purpose: lest the Conspirators should any longer shelter and carry on their design against the Government and Religion, under this shadow of *Parliamentary Authority*. But it was otherwise ordered of which it is now time to relate the Consequences.

The four Lords having thus been committed, it cannot properly

perly be said that the House of Peers was thence forward under the Government of the Lord *Frechevel*, and the Lord *runnel of Trerise*, but those two noble Peers had of necessity no small Influence upon the Counsels of that House, (having hoped ere this to have made their way also into his Majesty's Privy Council) and all things fell out as they could have wished, if under their own direction. For most of them, who had been the most active formerly in the Publick Interest, sat mute in the House, whether, as is probable out of reverence to their two Persons, and confidence in their wisdom, they left all to their Conduct, and gave them a general Proxei, or whether, as some would have it, they were sullen at the Commitment of the four Lords, and by reason of that, or the *Prorogation*, began now to think the Parliament, or their House to be *Non Compos*. But now therefore Doctor *Cary*, a Commoner, was brought to the Bar before them, and questioned concerning a written Book which it seems he had carried to be printed, treating of the Illegality of this *Prorogation*, and because he satisfied them not in some Interrogatories, which no man would in Common honour to others, or in self preservation, as neither was he in Law bound to have answered, they therefore *Fined* him a thousand pound, under that new Notion of Contempt, when no other Crime would do it, and sentenced him to continue close Prisoner in the Tower until payment. Yet the Commons were in so admirable good temper (having been conjured by the charming Eloquence of the Lord Chancellor, to avoid all misunderstanding between the two Houses) that their could no Member, or time be found in all the Session, to offer their House his Petition, much less would that breach upon the whole Parliament, by imprisoning the Lords, for using their liberty of speech, be entertained by them upon motion, for fear of encroaching upon the privilege of the House of Peers, which it had been well for them if they had been as tender of formerly.

One further Instance of the Complexion of their House at that season, may be sufficient. One Master *Harrington*, had before

before the Session been Committed Close Prisoner (for that was now the mode, as though the Earl of Northampton, would not otherwise have kept him Close enough) by Order of the King and Council, the Warrant bearing for subornation of Perjury, tending to the Defamation of his Majesty, and his Government, and for Contemptuously Declaring, he would not answer his Majesty any Question, which his Majesty, or his Privy Council should ask him. As this Gentleman was hurried along to the Tower, he was so dexterous as to convey into a friends hand passing by, a Blank Paper only with his name, that a Petition might be written above it, to be presented to the House of Commons, without rejecting for want of his own hand in the subscription. His Case notwithstanding the Warrant was thus.

He had met with two Scotch souldiers in Town returned from Flanders, who complained that many of their Countrey men had in Scotland been seized by force, to be carried over into the French service, had been detained in the Publick prisons till an opportunity to transport them: were heaved on board fast tyed and bound like malefactors, some of them straggling and contesting it, were cast into the Sea, or maimed, in conclusion an intolerable violence and barbarity used to compell them, and this near the present Session of Parliament. Hereupon this Gentleman considering how oft the House of Commons had addressed to his Majesty and framed an Act for recalling his Majesties Subjects out of the French service, as also that his Majesty had issued his Proclamation to the same purpose, thought he might do a good and acceptable thing in giving information of it to the House as time served. But without knowing how witnesses might possibly be taken off, he for his own greater security took them before a Master of Chancery, where they confirmed by Oath the same things they had told him. But hereupon he was brought before his Majesty, and the Privy Council, where he declared this matter, but being there asked by the Lord Chancellour some insinuating and improper questions, he modestly, as those that were

were by affirmed, desired to be excused from answering him further, but after this, answered his Majesty with great humility and respect to divers questions. This was the subornation of Perjury, and this the Contempt to his Majesty, for which he was made Close Prisoner. Upon his Petition to the House of Commons he was sent for, and called in, where he is reported to have given a very clear account of the whole matter, and of his behaviour at the Council board. But of the two *Scotch* soldiers, the one made himself perjured without being suborned by *Harrington*, denying or misrepresenting to the House what he had sworn formerly. And the other, the honestest fellow it seems of the two, only was absented. But however divers honourable Members of that House attested voluntarily, that the souldiers had affirmed the same thing to them, and indeed the Truth of that matter is notorious, by several other soldiers that since came over, and by further account from *Scotland*. Master *Harrington* also carried himself towards the House with that modesty, that it seemed inseparable from him, and much more in his Majesties presence, so that their House was inclined, and ready to have concerned themselves for his Liberty. But Master Secretary *Williamson* stood up, having been a Principal Instrument in committing him, and because the other crimes rather deserved Thanks and Commendation, and the Warrant would not Justify it self, he insisted upon his strange demeanour toward his Majesty, decipherd his very looks, how truly it matters not, and but that his Majesty and the House remained still living Flesh and Blood, it might have been imagined by his discourse that Master *Harrington* had the Head of a Gargon. But this story so wrought with, and amazed the Commons, that Mr. *Harrington* found no redress, but might thank God that he escaped again into Close Prison. It was thought notwithstanding by most men, that his looks might have past any where but with a man of Sir *Josephs* delicacy. For neither indeed had Mr. *Harrington* ever the same opportunities that others had, of practising the *Hocus Pocus* of the Face, of Play-
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ing the *French Scurmaccie*, or of living abroad to learn how to make the Plenipotentiary *Grinasse* for his Majesties service.

And now to proceed, rather according to the Coherence of the matters, then to the particular Date of every days action. By this good humour, and the House being so free of the Liberty of their fellow Commoners, it might be guessed that they would not be less liberal of their Mony this Session.

The Bill therefore for 600000 *l.* Tax for eighteen months towards the building and furnishing of Ships, easily passed without once dreaming any more of appropriating the Customs. For the Nation being generally possessed by the Members with the defects of the Navy, and not considering at all from what neglect it proceeded, the House of Commons were very willing, and glad to take this occasion, of confirming the Authority of their sitting, and to pay double the summe that in the former Sessions they had thought necessary towards the Fleet; thereby to hedge in, and purchase their own continuance. And for the same purpose they ingrossed the Act with so numerous a list of Commissioners, that it seemed rather a Register or Muster-roll of the Nation, and that they raised the whole Kingdom to raise the mony. For who could doubt that they were still a lawful Parliament, when they saw so many Gentlemens names (though by the Clerks hand only) subscribed to an Act of their making? Only Mr. *Seymour* the speaker, would have diminished the number in his own Country. For he had entred into a Combination, that none should serve the King or their Country thorow *Devonshire*, in any capacity but under his approbation, and therefore he highly inveighed against many Gentlemen of the best rank there, that ought him no homage, as persons disaffected, opposing their names at a Committee of the whole House, before he heard them. But being checked in his career, he let fall the contest, with as much judgment and modesty, as he had begun it with boldness and indiscretion.

This Bill was not enough, but though the Nation had hoped

hoped to be relieved from the Additional Excise upon Beer and Ale, which the Tripple League had foold them into, but was now of course to expire the 24th of June, 1677. Yet a Bill for the continuing of it for three years more, passed them likewise with little Difficulty. For the late fear of Dissolution was still so fresh upon them, that they would continue any thing to buy their own Continuance; and this Bill might considering their present want of Legality, have been properly intituled, *An Act for the Extraordinary Occasion of the House of Commons*. But that they might seem within this tenderness to themselves not to have cast of all toward the People, they sunk all former Grievances into a Bill of Chancery, knowing well that a sute in that Court would be sooner ended, then a Reformation of it be effected; and that thereby they might gain work enough to direct the whole Session. And of their usual Bills for the Liberty of the Subjects, they sent up only that of *Mabens Corpus*; pretending, and perhaps truly, that they durst not adventure them either in their own or the Lords House as they were now governed, lest they should be further ensnared by struggling for freedom. But least they should trouble themselves too much with Religion, the Lords presented them with two Bills of a very good name, but of a strange and unheard of nature. The one intituled, *An Act for securing the Protestant Religion by educating the Children of the Royal Family, and providing for the continuance of a Protestant Clergy*. The other, *An Act for the more effectual Conviction and Prosecution of Popish Recusants*. And with these they sent down another for the further regulation of the Presses and suppressing all unlicensed Books, with clauses most severe and general upon the subject, whereof one for breaking all Houses whatsoever, on suspicion of any such Pamphlets where by Master *L'Estranges* Authority was much amplified to search any other House with the same liberty as he had Sir *Thomas Dolemans*.

But as to those two Bills of Religion, although they were of the highest consequence that ever were offered in Parli-
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ment since *Protestancy* came in (and went out of fashion) yet it is not to be imagined, how indisputable and easie a passage they found through the House of Peers, to the House of Commons: which must be ascribed to the great unanimity among them, after the committing of the four Lords, and to the Power of those two noble Peers, their Adversaries, which was now so established, that their sence being once declared, the rest seemed to yield them an Implicite Faith and Obedience; and they were now in such Vogue, that whatsoever was spoken or done any where abroad in perfection, with great weight and Judgment, men said it was *Ala Fraischeville*. But if gently and acutely, *Ala Trerise*.

That Intituled, *An Act for the more effectual Conviction and Prosecution of Popish Recusants*, is too long to be here inserted and the Fate it met with, makes it unnecessary, for as soon as it was first read a Gentleman of great worth and apprehension spake short but roundly and thorow against it.

A second immediately moved that it might not only be thrown out, but with a particular mark of Infamy. And it being without any more ado ready to be put to the Question, a third demanded that they should stay a while to see whether there were any one so hardy as to speak a word for it, which no man offering at, it was forthwith rejected with this censure added to the Journal.

Because the Body of the Bill was contrary to the Title, This unusual sentence of the House of Commons, though excusable by the crimes of the Bill, yet was not to be justified by the Rules of intercourse between the two Houses. But because all men have hence taken occasion to accuse the Lords Spiritual, as the Authors both of this Bill and the other, it is necessary to insert here the true Fact in their just vindication. It was above two years ago that a select Cabal of great Ministers, had been consulting about Church matters, tho' it seldom happens (nor did it in this instance) that the Statesmen are more fortunate in meddling with Religion, than the Churchmen with Government, but each mars them with tampering

ing out of their Provinces. This only difference, that while Ecclesiastical Persons may do by chance or consequence, that harm the others commit on set purpose. For it was by these Politicians, that these two *Cockatrice Eggs* were laid, and by their assiduous incubation hatched. It is true indeed afterwards they took some few of the Bishops into Communication, and as it were for advice, upon what was before resolved. And to make this Bill go the better down, they flattered them with the other, as wholly calculated for sooth to the Churches Interest. And by this means possibly they prevailed so far, that the Bishops both there and in the *House* less vigorously opposed. But that the Bishops were either the Contrivers or Promoters of the Bill, is a scandalous falsehood and devised by the Authors, to throw the *Odium* off from themselves upon the Clergy, and (the Bills that aimed at the ruine of the Church of *England* having miscarried) to compass the same end by this defamation. A sufficient warning to the Clergy, how to be intreauged with the Statesmen for the future. *The second Bill follows.*

An Act for further securing the Protestant Religion, by Educating the Children of the Royal Family therein; and for the providing for the continuance of a Protestant Clergy.

TO the Intent that the Protestant Religion, which through the blessing of God hath happily Established in this Realm, and is at present so happily secured by his Majesties known Piety and Zeal for the preservation thereof, may remain secure in all future times.

Be it Enacted by the Kings most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons in this Parliament Assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That upon the demise of his Majesty that now is, to whom God grant a long and prosperous Reign, and upon the demise of any other King or Queen Regnant, that shall hereafter bear the Imperial Crown of
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this Realm, the Arch-Bishops, and all and every the Bishops of *England and Wales*, for the time being, as shall not be disabled by Sicknes or other Infirmity, shall within fourty days next after such Demise, repaire to *Lambeth House*, and being there assembled, to the number of nine at least, shall cause to be fairly ingrosed in Parchment the Oath and Declaration following.

I. *King or Queen of England*, do declare and swear, that I do believe that there is not any Transubstantiation in the Sacrament of the Lords Supper, or in the Elements of Bread and Wine, at or after the Consecration, thereof by any person whatsoever. So help me God.

Which blank shall be filled up with the Christian Name of such King or Queen, And thereupon the Prelates so Assembled, shall without delay repaire to the persons of such succeeding King or Queen Regnant; and in humble manner tender the said Oath or Declaration, to be taken by such succeeding King or Queen Regnant, which they are hereby Authorized to Administer, and shall abide in or near the Court by the space of fourteen days, and at convenient time, as often as conveniently they may, they shall appear in the presence of such King and Queen ready to receive Commands for Administering the said Oath and Declaration, which if such succeeding King and Queen shall make and subscribe in presence of any nine or more of them, they shall attest the doing thereof by subscribing their Names to a Certificate, Indorsed upon the said Indorsment, and carry the same into the high Court of Chancery, there to be safely deposited amongst the Records of the said Court. And if such King or Queen Regnant, shall refuse or omit to make and subscribe the said Oath and Declaration, for the space of fourteen days after such humble tender made in manner aforesaid, the said Prelates may depart from the Court without any further attendance on this occasion. But if at any time afterward such King or Queen shall be pleased to take and subscribe the

said Oath and Declaration, and shall signifie such pleasure to the Arch-Bishops and Bishops or any nine or more of them, the said Arch-Bishops and Bishops, or such nine or more of them, are hereby Authorised and required forthwith to Administer the same, and to attest and certify the same in manner aforesaid.

And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any succeeding King or Queen Regnant, shall refuse or Omit to make such Oath and Declaration, within the time therefore limited, the same having been tendered in manner aforesaid, or there shall be any Let, Obstruction, or hindrance whatsoever, to their making the said tender in manner aforesaid, they are hereby enjoined and required to endorse upon the said Engrosment such refusal or omission, or any obstruction, let or hinderance, that shall happen to them, whereby they are not able to make the said tender, according to the Act, and attest the same by subscribing their names thereunto, and carry the same into the high Court of Chancery, there to be safely deposited in manner aforesaid. And if any the said persons, hereby appointed to make the said tender, shall neglect or refuse to do the same, or in case of any refusal, or omission of making the said Oath and Declaration, or in case of any Obstruction or hindrance to the making of the said tender, shall refuse or neglect to make certificate thereof in manner aforesaid, that the Arch-Bishoprick or Bishoprick of the Person or Persons so refusing, shall be *Ipso Facto*, void, as if he or they were naturally Dead, and the said Person or Persons shall be incapable, during his or their Life or Lives, of that, or any other Ecclesiastical preferment.

And be it further Enacted, That if any King or Queen Regnant, at the time when the Imperial Crown of this Realm shall devolve, shall be under the age of fourteen years, and that upon his or her attaining the said age of fourteen years, the Arch-Bishops and Bishops shall, and are upon the like penalties hereby enjoined, within fourteen days next after such attaining to the said Age, to assemble at the said place,

and

and thereupon to do and perform all things in preparing and sending the said Oath and Declaration, and making certificate of the taking or omission thereof, that are required by this Act to be done, upon the demise of any King or Queen Regnant.

And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That until any succeeding King or Queen Regnant shall make the said Oath and Declaration, in manner aforesaid, such respective King or Queen shall not grant, confer, or dispose of any Arch-Bishoprick or any Bishoprick in *England* or *Wales*, otherwise than in manner following, that is to say, within seven days after the Vacancy of any Bishoprick or See, shall be known to the Arch-Bishop of *Canterbury* for the time being, he shall and is hereby required to send forth a Summons in Writing to all the Prelates in *England* and *Wales*, requiring them to meet at a certain convenient time and place, to be appointed by the summons, to consult concerning the nomination of fit persons for the supply of that Vacancy. And in case of vacancy of the Arch-Bishoprick of *Canterbury*, the Arch-Bishop of *York*, for the time being. And if that See shall be also vacant, such Prelate of the Realm; as by the Statute of 31. H. 8. ought to have place before the rest in *Parliament*, shall and are hereby required to issue forth the said Summons, and at the said time and place, so appointed, in manner aforesaid, the Prelates then assembled, being seven at the least, or the major part of them, shall by writing under their Hands and Seals, nominate three persons, natural born subjects of the King, and in holy Orders, for the supplying of the said Vacancy, and to be placed in such Order as the said Prelates so assembled, or the major part of them shall think fit, without regard to dignity, antiquity, or any other form, which Writing shall be presented to the King, who may thereupon appoint one of the three persons so to be named, to succeed in the said Vacancy. And the person so appointed or chosen, shall by due form of Law, according to the course now used, be made Bishop of that See. But if in 30 days

days after such presentment, of such Names; the King or Queen Regnant shall not Elect or appoint, which of the said three persons shall succeed in the said vacant See; or if after such Election or appointment there shall be any obstruction in pressing of the usual Instruments and formalities of Law, in order to his Consecration, then such person, whose Name shall be first written in the said Instrument of nomination, if there be no Election or appointment made by the King, within the time aforesaid, shall be the Bishop of the vacant See. And if there be an Election or appointment made, then the person so appointed, shall be the Bishop of the vacant See. And the Arch-bishop of the Province wherein the said vacancy shall be, or such other person or persons, who ought by his Majesties Ecclesiastical Laws to Consecrate the said Bishop, shall upon reasonable demand, and are hereby required to make Consecration accordingly upon pain of forfeiting treble damages and costs to the party grieved, to be recovered in any of his Majesties Courts at *Westminster*. And immediately after such Consecration, the person so consecrated, shall be, and is hereby Enacted to be complete Bishop of the said vacant See, and is hereby vested in the Temporalities of the said Bishoprick, and in actual possession thereof, to all intents and purposes, and shall have a Seat and Place in Parliament, as if he had by due forms of Law been made Bishop, and had the Temporalities restored unto him. And in case the person so first named in the said Instrument of nomination, or the person so Elected by the King or Queen Regnant, shall then be a Bishop, so that no Consecration be requisite, then immediately after default of Election or appointment by the King, or immediately after such Election or appointment, if any shall be made within the said time, and any Obstructions in pressing the Instruments and Formalities in Law, in such cases used, the Bishop so first Named or Elected and appointed, shall thereupon, *ipso facto*, be translated, and become Bishop of that See, to which he was so nominated and appointed, and shall be, and is hereby vested in

in the Temporalities and actual possession thereof to all intents and purposes, and shall have his Seat and Place in Parliament accordingly, and his former See shall become vacant, as if he had been by due Forms of Law chosen and confirmed into the same, and had the Temporalities restored unto him.

And be it further Enacted, That until the making the said Oath and Declaration in manner aforesaid, the respective succeeding Kings and Queens that shall not have made and subscribed the same, shall not grant or dispose of any Denary, or Arch Deconary, Prebendary, Mastership of any Colledge, Parsonage, Vicarage or any Ecclesiastical Benefice or Promotion whatsoever, to any other person, but such person as shall be nominated for the same, unto the said King or Queen Regnant, by the Arch-Bishop of *Canterbury*, or Guardians of the Spiritualities of the said Arch-Bishoprick, for the time being, if the same be within the Province of *Canterbury*, and by the Arch-Bishoprick of *York*, or Guardians of the Spiritualities of the said Arch-Bishoprick for the time being, if the same be within the Province of *York*, by writing under their respective Hands and Seals, and in case any such as shall be accordingly nominated, shall not be able to obtain Presentation or grant thereof within 30 days, next after such nomination, then the said person shall and may, and is hereby enabled, by force of the said nomination, to require Institution and Induction from such person and persons unto whom it shall belong to grant the same, who shall accordingly make Institution and Induction, as if the said person were lawfully presented by the said King or Queen Regnant, upon pain to forfeit to the party grieved, treble damages and costs, to be recovered in any of his Majesties Courts at *Westminster*, and in cases where no Institution or Induction is requisite the said person so nominated, from and after the end of the said 30 days, shall be and is hereby actually vested in the possession of such Denary, Arch-Deconary, Prebendary, Mastership, Rectory, Parsonage, or Vicarage, Donative, or other Ecclesiastical Benefice or Promotion, and shall be full and

and absolute proprietor and Incumbent thereof, to all Intents and Purposes as if he had obtained possession thereof upon a legal grant by the said King or Queen Regnant, and proceeding thereupon in due form of Law.

Provided always and be it Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful for the Lord High Chancellor of *England*, or the Lord Keeper of the great Seal of *England*, for the time being, to pass presentations or grants to any Ecclesiastical Benefice, under value in the King's Gift, in such manner as hath been accustomed, any thing in this present Act to the contrary notwithstanding.

And be it further Enacted, That during such time as any King or Queen Regnant, shall be under the said fourteen years, no person that shall be Lord Protector, or Regent of this Realm, during such minority, shall in any wise, either in the name of the King or Queen Regnant, or in his own name grant, confer or dispose of any Arch-Bishoprick, Bishoprick, Deanery, Prebendary, Mastership of any Colledge, Personage, Vicarage, or other Ecclesiastical Benefice or Promotion whatsoever, but the same shall be disposed of in manner above-mentioned, during such minority, until such Lord Protector or Regent, shall make and subscribe the said Oath and Declaration, (*mutatis mutandis*) before such nine or more of the said Prelates, as he shall call to Administer the same unto him, which Oath and Declaration they are hereby Authorized and required to Administer, under the penalties aforesaid, when they shall be called thereunto, by such Lord Protector or Regent, for the time being.

And be it further Enacted, That the Children of such succeeding King or Queen Regnant, that shall not have made and subscribed the Oath and Declaration in manner aforesaid, shall from their respective Ages of seven years, until the respective Ages of fourteen years, to be under the care and government of the Arch-Bishops of *Canterbury* and *York*, and Bishop of *London*, *Durham* and *Winchester*, for the time being, who are hereby enjoined and required to take care, that they

they be well instructed and Educated in the true Protestant Religion, as it is now Established by Law, and to the Intent that the Arch-Bishops and Bishops, for the time being, may effectually have the Care and Government of such Children according to the true intent of this Law; Be it Enacted, That after any such Children shall have attained their respective Ages of fourteen years, no person shall have, enjoy, bear and execute any office, service, employment or place of attendment relating to their persons, but such as shall be approved of in writing under the Hands and Seals of the said Arch-Bishops and Bishops in being, or the major part of such of them as are there in being. And if any person shall take upon him to Execute any such Office, Service, Employment or place of attendance, contrary to the true intent and meaning of this Act, he shall forfeit the sum of 100*l*. for every moneth he shall so Execute the same to be recovered by any person that will sue for the same in any Action of Debt, Bill, Plaint or Information, in any of his Majesties Courts at Westminster, shall also suffer Imprisonment for the space of six moneths without Bayle or Mainprize.

And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That no Person born within this Realm or any other of his Majesties Dominions, being a Popish Priest, Deacon or Ecclesiastical Person, made or deemed, or professed by any Authority or Jurisdiction derived, challenged, or pretended from the See of Rome, or any Jesuite whatsoever shall be allowed to attend the person of the Queens Majesty that now is, or any Queen Consort, or Queen Dowager, that shall be hereafter, whilst they are within this Realm, for by pretence of such service or any other matter, shall be Exempted from the penal Laws already made against such persons coming into being or remaining in this Kingdom, but shall be, and are hereby lyable to the utmost severity thereof.

Provided always, That it shall and may be lawful for Master *John Huddleston*, being one of the Queens Majesties Domestique servants, to attend her said Majesties service, any

any thing in this Act or any other Law to the contrary notwithstanding.

And be it further Enacted, That after the Death of the Queens Majesty, to whom God grant a long and happy life, all lay persons whatsoever, born within this Realm, or any other of his Majesties Dominions, that shall be of the Household; or in the Service or Employment of any succeeding Queen Consort, or Queen Dowager, shall do and perform all things, in a late Act of this Parliament, Entituled, *An Act for preventing Dangers which may happen from Popish recusants*: required to be done and performed by any person, that shall be admitted into the Service or Employment of his Majesty, or his Royal Highness the Duke of York; which if they shall neglect or refuse to do and perform, and nevertheless, after such Refusal and execute any Office, Service, or Employment under any succeeding Queen Consort, or Queen Dowager, every person so offending, shall be lyable to the same penalties and disabilities, as by the said Act are or may be inflicted upon the breakers of that Law provided always, That all and every person or persons that shall by virtue of this Act, have or claim any Arch-Bishoprick, Bishoprick, Deanry, Prebendary, Personage, Vicarage, or other Ecclesiastical Benefits, with Cure or without Cure, shall be and is hereby enjoyned, under the like penalties and disabilities, to do and perform all things whatsoever, which by Law they ought to have done if they had obtained the same, and by the usual course and form of Law, without the help and benefit of this Act.

And be it further Enacted, That all and every Arch-Bishops, Bishops, appointed by this Act to Assemble upon the Demise of his Majesty, or any other King or Queen Regnant, in order to repaire and make humble tender of the Oath and Declaration aforementioned, to any succeeding King or Queen, be bound by this Act to Administer the same, shall before such tender and Administration thereof, and are hereby required to Administer the same Oath and Declaration,

ration, to one another, with such of the Arch-Bishops and Bishops, at any time assembled as by the statute 31. H.8. ought to have precedence of all the rest of them, that shall be so assembled, is hereby authorized and required, to administer to the rest of them, and the next in order to such Prelates, is hereby authorized and required to administer the same to him, and the same Oath and Declaration being engrossed in other piece of Parchment, they and every of them are hereby enjoined to subscribe their names to the same, and to return the same into the high Court of Chancery, hereafter with their Certificate, which they are before by this Act appointed to make. And if any of the said Arch-Bishops or Bishops, shall be under the same penalties, forfeiture, and disabilities, as are hereby appointed for such Arch-Bishops and Bishops, as neglect or refuse to make any tender of the said Oath and Declaration, to any succeeding King or Queen Regnant.

And be it further Enacted, That the Arch-Bishop of *Canterbury*, or Arch-Bishop of *York*, or such other Bishop to whom shall belong to issue forth summons to all the Bishops of *England* and *Wales*, requiring to meet and consult concerning the Nomination of fit persons, for the supply of any Arch-Bishoprick, or Bishoprick, according to this Act, shall make the said summons in such manner that the time therein mentioned for the meeting the said Arch-Bishops and Bishops, shall not be more then forty days, distinct from the time of the date, and issuing out of the said summons.

And be it further Enacted, That in case any person intitled by this Act, doth demand Consecration, in order to make him Bishop of any vacant See, in manner aforesaid, shall demand the same of the Arch-Bishop of the Province, and such Arch-Bishop that shall neglect or refuse to do the same, either by himself or by others Commissioned by him, by the space of thirty days, that then such Arch-Bishop shall over and besides the trebble Damages, to the party before appointed, forfeit the summe of 1000 l. to any person that will sue for the same, in any of his Majesties Courts at

Westminster by Action of Debt, Bill, Plaint or Information, wherein no Essoyn, Protection, or Wager of Law shall be allowed: And being thereof lawfully convicted, his Arch-Bishoprick shall thereby become *Ipso Facto*, void as if he were naturally Dead, and he shall be and is hereby made incapable and disabled to hold, have, receive the same, or any other Bishoprick, or Ecclesiastical benefice whatsoever.

And be it further Enacted, That after such neglect or refusal by the space of thirty days after Demand, to make such Consecration, or in case of the vacancy of the Arch-Bishoprick, such Bishop of the said Province, for time being, who by the Statute of 31. H. 8. ought to have presidents of all the rest, calling to his assistance a sufficient number of Bishops, who are likewise required to assist, at such time and place as he shall thereunto appoint, shall and is hereby required upon reasonable Demands, to make such Consecration, which shall be good and effectual in Law, as if the said Bishop were thereunto authorized, and empowered by Commission from such Arch-Bishop, or any other person, or persons having authority to grant Commission for the doing the same.

And be it further Enacted, That the said Bishops and every of them, are hereby enjoined and required to perform the same, upon pain of forfeiting, upon any neglect or refusal, trebble damages to the party grieved, to be recovered with Costs in any of his Majesties Courts of Record at *Westminster*, as also the sum of 1000 l. to any person that will sue for the same, in any of his Majesties Courts at *Westminster*, by any action of Debt, Bill, Plaint or Information, wherein no Essoyn, Protection, or Wager of Law shall be allowed; and being lawfully convicted of any such neglect or refusal, his or their Bishoprick that shall be so convicted, shall become *ipso facto*, void, as if he or they were naturally dead, and he or they are hereby made incapable, and disabled to have, hold, or receive the same, or any other Bishoprick or any other Ecclesiastical benefice whatsoever.

Yet this Notorious Bill had not the same accident with the first.

first, but was read a second time, and committed; wherein their Houses curiosity seemes to have led them, rather than an Satisfaction they had in the matter, or hope of amending it, for it dyed away, the Committee disdaining, or not daring publicly to enter upon it, some indeed having, as is said, once attempted it in private, and provided R. S. a fit Lawyer for the Chairman, but were discovered. And thus let these two Bills perish like unseasonable and monstrous Births, but the Legitimate issue of the Conspirators, and upon the hopes of whose growth they had built the succession of their Projects.

Hence forward another Scene opens: The House of Commons thorow the whole remainder of this Session, falling in with some unanimity, and great Vigor against the *French* Counsels. Of which their Proceedings it were easy to assigne the more intimate Causes; but they having therein also acted according to the Publick Interest, we will be glad to suppose it to have been their only Motive. That business having occasioned many weighty Debates in their House, and frequent Addresses to his Majesty, deserves a more particular account. Nor hath it been difficult to recover it, most of them being unwilling to forget any thing they have said to the purpose, but rather seeking to divulge what they think was bravely spoken; and that they may be thought some body; often arrogating where they cannot be disproved, another mans Conception to their own honour.

March the 6th. 1676, the House being resolved into a Committee of the whole House to consider of Grievances, Resolved.

That a Committee be appointed to prepare an Address, to represent unto his Majesty the danger of the Power of France, and to desire that his Majesty by such Alliances as he shall think fit, do secure his Kingdoms, and quiet the fears of his People, and for preservation of the Spanish Netherlands.

May it please your Majesty.

WE your Majesties most Loyal Subjects, the Knights, Citizens and Burgesses, in Parliament Assembled, find ourselves obliged in duty and faithfulness to your Majesty, and in discharge of the Trust reposed in us, by those whom we represent, Most humble to Offer to your Majesties consideration, that the minds of your People are much disquieted, with the Manifest dangers arising to your Majesty, by the Growth and Power of the French King; Especially by the acquisition already made, and the further progress like to be made by him, in the Spanish Netherlands, in the preservation and security whereof, we humbly conceive the Interest of your Majesty, and the safety of your People, are highly concerned; and therefore we most humbly beseech your Majesty, to take the same into your Royal care, and to strengthen your self with such stricter Alliances, as may secure your Majesties Kingdoms, and secure and preserve the said Spanish Netherlands, and thereby quiet the minds of your Majesties People.

This Address was presented to his Majesty the 16th. of March, and his Majesties Answer was reported to the House of Commons, by Mr. Speaker, the 17th. of March, which was thus.

That his Majesty was of the Opinion of his two Houses of Parliament, That the Preservation of Flanders was of great consequence; and that he would use all means in his power for the Safety of his Kingdoms.

A motion was therefore made for a second Address upon the same subject, on Monday March 26th, which here followeth.

May it please your Majesty,

WE your Majesties most Loyal Subjects, the Knights, Citizens, and Burgesses in Parliament Assembled, do with unspeakable joy and comfort, present our humble thanks to your Majesty, for your Majesties gracious acceptance of our late Address, and that your Majesty was pleased in your Princely Wisdom to express your Concurrance and Opinion with your two Houses in reference to the Preservation of the Spanish Netherlands.

And we do with most earnest and repeated desires implore your Majesty, That you would be pleased to take timely care to prevent those dangers that may arise to the Kingdoms by the great Power of the French King, and the Progress he daily makes in those Netherlands, and other places.

And therefore that your Majesty would not defer the entering into such Alliances as may obtain those ends, and in case it shall happen, that in pursuance of such Alliances, your Majesty should be engaged in a War with the French King, we do hold our selves obliged, and do with all humility and cheerfulness assure your Majesty, That we your most Loyal Subjects shall always be ready upon your signification thereof in Parliament, fully, and from time to time, to assist your Majesty with such Aydes and Supplies as by the Divine assistance, may enable your Majesty to prosecute the same with Success.

All which we do most humbly offer to your Majesty as the unanimous sense and desire of the whole Kingdom.

March 30th. 1677.

It was alledged against this Address, that to press the King to make further Alliances with the Confederates against the French King, was in effect to press him to a War, that being the direct and unavoidable Consequence thereof.

That the Consideration of War was not proper for the King, who had the intelligence of Forraine Affairs, and knew the *Arcana Imperii*.

That it was a dangerous thing, hastily to Incite the King to a War.

That our Merchant-Ships and Effects would be presently seized by the French King within his Dominions, and thereby he would acquire the value of, it may be near, a million to enable him to maintain the War against us.

That he would fall upon our Plantations and take Plunder and annoy them.

That he would sent out abundance of Capers, and take and disturb all our Trading Ships in these Seas, and the Mediterranean.

That

That we had not so many Ships of War as he, and that thirty which were to be built with the 600000 *l.* now given could not be finished in two years.

That we had not Naval Stores and Ammunition, or sufficient for such a purpose, and if we had, yet the season of the Year was too far advanced to set out a considerable Fleet: and we could not now lay in Beef, Pork, &c.

That when we were engaged in a War, the *Dutch* would likely slip Collar, leave us in the War, and so Gain to themselves the singular advantage of sole trading in Peace, which is the Privilege we now enjoy, and should not be weary of.

That it was next to Impossible, to make Alliances with the several parties as might be expected, such and so various were the several Interests, and crosse-biases, of and amongst the *Emperour*, the *Spaniard*, the *Dane*, the *Dutch*, the *Brandenburgh*, and the several lesser Princes of *Germany*, and others.

That we might easily enter into a War, but it would be hard to find the way out of it, and a long War would be destructive to us; for though the *Emperour*, *French*, *Spaniard*, &c. use to maintain War for many years, yet a Trading Nation as *England* is, could not endure a long-winded War.

On the other side, it was said,

That they did not Address for making War but making Leagues, which might be a means to prevent War.

That the best way to preserve Peace, was to be in a preparation for War.

That admitting a War should ensue thereupon, as was not unlikely, yet that would tend to our peace, and safety in conclusion; for it must be agreed, that if the Power of *France* were not reduced, and brought to a more equal Ballance with its neighbours, we must fight or submit, first or last.

That it was commonly the Fate of those that kept themselves Neutral, when their Neighbours were at War, to become a prey to the Conquerour.

That now or never was the Critical season to make War upon the *French*, whilst we may have so great auxiliary conjunction;

junction; and if it were a dangerous and formidable thing to encounter him now, how much more would it be so when this Opportunity was lost, the Confederacy disbanded, a Peace made on the other side the water, and we left alone to withstand him single.

That as to his seizing our Merchants effects, the Case was (the same and) no other now than it would be three years hence, or at any time whenever the War should commence.

That as to our Plantations and our Traders, we must consider, though the *French* was powerful, he was not Omnipotent and we might as well defend them as the *Dutch* do theirs by Guards, Convoys, &c. and chiefly when the *French* have so many Enemies, and we shall have so many Friends, as no other time is like to afford.

That they were sorry to hear we had not Ships, Stores, &c. equal to the *French*, and to our Occasions, and hoped it would appear to be otherwise.

That the season was not so far spent, but that a competent Fleet might be set out this Summer, and that however Deficient we might be in this kind, the *Dutch* were forward and ready to make an effectual Supplement in that behalf.

That howsoever ill and false some men might esteem the *Dutch*, yet Interest will not lye, and it is so much their Interest to confine and bring down the *French*, that it is not to be apprehended, but they will stedily adhere to every Friend and every Alliance they shall joyn with for that purpose.

That however cross and diverse the several Confederates and their Interests were, yet a common Alliance may be made with them against the *French*, and as well as they have Allied themselves together, as well may the Alliance be extended to another, to be added to them, viz. the King of England.

That a numerous and vigorous conjunction against him is the way to shorten the work, whereas if he should hereafter attaque us singly, he would continue the War on us as long as he pleased, till he pleased to make an end of it and us together, by our final destruction.

That

That if now we should neglect to make *Alliances*, we have no cause to expect to have one Friend, when the *French* should make Peace beyond Sea, and single us out for Conquest; for all that are conjoynd against the *French*, are provoked and disobliged, by reason of the great number of *English*, *Scotch* and *Irish*, which have served, and do still serve the *French*, and it was proved at the Bar of this House within this fortnight, That 1000 men were levied in *Scotland*, and sent to the *French* service in *January* last, and some of them by force and pressing.

Also that it was understood and resented, that we had mainly contributed to this overgrown Greatness of the *French* by selling *Dunkirk*, that special Key and Inlet of *Flanders*, by making War on the *Dutch*, in 1665. Whereupon the *French* joyned with the *Dutch*, under which shelter and opportunity the *French* King laid the Foundation of this Great Fleet he now hath, buying then many great Ships of the *Dutch*, and building many others: as to which, but for that occasion, the *Dutch* would have denyed and hindred him, by not observing the Tripple League, and by our making a Joynt War with the *French* against the *Dutch*, in which, the *French* yet proceeds and Tryumphs. So that in this respect we have much to redeem and retrieve.

That enmity against the *French*, was the thing wherein this divided Nation did unite, and this occasion was to be laid hold on, as an opportunity of moment amongst our selves.

That the bent and weight of the Nation, did lean this way, and that was a strong Inducement and Argument to incline their Representatives.

That it had been made appar, and that in *Parliament* that upon the Ballance of the *French* Trade, this Nation was detrimented yearly 900000 *l.* Or a Million, the value of the Goods Imported from *France*, annually so much exceeding that of the Goods Exported hence thither, whereby it is evident, that such a sum of the Treasure and money of the Nation was yearly Exhausted and carryed into *France*, and all this

this by unnecessary Wines, Silk, Ribbons, Feathers, &c. The
saving and retrenching of which Expence, and Exhaustion,
will in a Great Degree serve to maintain the Charge of a War.
That the present was the best time for the purpose, and
that this would give Reputation to the Confederates, and
Comfort and Courage to our best friends immediately, and
Glory to our selves in future, against the Old perpetual En-
emy of England.

The second Address was presented to his Majesty, March
the 30. and till the 11. of April, they received no Answer.
Inasmuch that it became doubtful, whether the Money Bill
would be accepted or no, and if the Commons made any
difficulty in passing them, unless they were first secured
against the French Interest, it seemed that the supply would
be rejected by the Confederates good will. And that even
the building of Ships, though necessary soever, might rather
have been rejected again, as it had in former Sessions, and
for the whole long Prorogation. But their House was far
from such Obstinacy. And there was some of them making
both of a Disavowal and a Denial, with the defeat of the
Prinsep of Orange at the Battle of the Clouds. So that now there was no
further danger of preventing or interrupting the success of
the French in this Campaign, at least therefore upon the
of their ship following answer was offered to their House
from his Majesty by Master Secretary Coventry.

Now being to be put an Adjournment, that they had
been already, and would give their thanks in any new ones.
His Majesty having considered of the said Address and finding
that some late late reason in affairs which it was necessary to
put up in mind. That the only way to prevent the dangers which
may arise to these Kingdoms, must be by putting his Majesty closely
in a Condition to make such speedy preparation, as may enable him
to do what may be most for the security of them. And if for this
reason you shall desire to sit any longer time, his Majesty's content
may be Adjourn now before Recess, and meet again suddenly
after.

after, to ripen this matter, and to perfect some of the most necessary Bills now depending.

Given at our Court at *White-Hall*, the 21.
April. 1677.

Somewhat was said on both these matters, but the greater debate of them, was Adjourned till next day, and then reassumed.

Then it was moved that the House should Adjourn till after *Easter*, and then meet again, with a Resolution to enable the King to make such preparations as should be thought necessary, and also pass some necessary Bills for the Kingdom, which if they did not, the blame of the neglect must rest upon themselves, and it would be observed, they had not done to any effect this four years, and that now they had a Session, and had given a Million, they did take little care to redress Grievances, or pass Good Laws, for the People, and that they should not be able to give any account of themselves to their Neighbours in the Country, unless they should find them down, that there was no Grievance or Mischief in the Nation to be Redressed, and that the King had stopped their mouths, and laid it to them by offering to them to sit longer.

Others said, they should perfect the two Money Bills, and give the King Bate, and take another time to consider further of Religion, Liberty, and Property, especially seeing all Bills now depending, would be kept on foot, the Intended Recess, being to be but an Adjournment, that they had very good Laws already, and would give their shares in any new ones they were making, to be in the Country at the present time, that it was necessary for them to be there the 10th. of May to Execute the Act for 600000 l. Or. And sometime was to be allowed for their Journeys, and rest after it, that they should pass some necessary Bills, came in the end of the King's Message, by the by, For his Majesty said, That if for this Reason, that is, for making of preparations, &c. they should sit no longer, and if so, then also take the opportunity of passing such

such Bills: So the sense and inclination of the House was to rise before *Easter*, as had been before intimated and expected.

Then they fell upon the main consideration of the Message, and to make a present Answer.

The Secretary and other Ministers of State, said, that the Alteration of Affairs which his Majesty took notice of, was the success of the *French* against the Prince of *Orange*, in the Battel, and their proceeding to take *Cambray*, and *St. Omers*.

Thus by Inches or rather great measures they were taking in *Flanders*, which was reckoned the Out-work of *England*, as well as *Holland*; and they said plainly, nothing could put his Majesty in a condition to make fitting preparations to preserve the Kingdom, but ready money.

To this it was answered, that it was not proper nor usual to ask money at the end of a Session, and it was fit that Alliances should be first made, and that they should Adjourn rather till that were done, for they ought not to give money till they knew for what; and it was clearly spoken and made out to them, that if there were no Summers War, there was money enough given already.

It was replied, That they had not direction from his Majesty as to what he had resolved, and it might be not convenient to discover and publish such things, but they would offer their Guess and Ayme at some things, if there were any Approaches towards War, though they ought to consider and compute like him in the Gospel, whether with such a force they could encounter a King that came against them with such a force; they should think of providing a Guard for the Isle of *Wight*, *Fersey*, *Garnsey* and *Ireland*, and secure our Coasts, and be in a defensive posture on the Land, we might be Attaqued in a night.

Also there would be a necessity of an extraordinary Summer Guard at Sea, his Majesty did use to apply 400000 *l.* yearly out of the Customs upon his Fleets, (the very harbour Expence) which in Anchorage, Mooring, Docks, and Repaires, &c. was 110000 *l.* per annum, and he was now setting forth

40 Ships for the Summer Guard, but if there were a disturbance towards War, there must be more Ships, or at least there must be more fully manned, and more strongly appointed and furnished the more, especially if the Breach were sudden for otherwise, our Trading Ships at Sea, as well as those Ships and Goods in the *French Ports*, would be exposed. Now it is reasonable that the remainder which was above and beyond the Kings ordinary Allowance, should be supplied by the Parliament, and the Extraordinary preparations of this kind for the present, could not amount to less than 200000.

It was answered, that it was a Melancholy thing to think *Ferfey*, &c. Were not well enough secured, at least as well as in the year 1665. when we alone had War with the *French* and *Dutch* too, and yet the Kings Revenue was less then than now: That the Revenue of *Ireland* was 50000 *l.* per annum, beyond the Establishment (that is, the Civil, Military, and all payments of the Government) which if not sent over hither, but disposed there, would suffice to defend that Kingdom, and they remember that about a month ago, they were told by some of these Gentlemen, that the *French King* would not take more Towns in *Flanders* if he might have them, but was drawing off to meet the *German*, who would be in the field in *May*, and therefore it was strange, he should be represented now as ready to invade us, and that we must have an Army raised and kept on our Islands and Land. No they would not have that, it would be a great matter in the Balance, if the Kings Subjects were withdrawn from the *French* service, and applyed on the other side, and till that were done, that we did continue to be Contributory to the Greatness of *France*. But a Fleet would protect our whole. Ships are the defence of an Island, and thereby we may hope to keep at a distance, and not apprehend, or prepare to meet him at our Doors, he learns by *Sicily* what it is to invade an Island, he is not like to attempt an Invasion of us, till he hath some Mastery at Sea, which is Impossible for him to have so long as he is diverted and Employed at Land in the *Mediterranean*, and in the *Wst-Indies*, as he is.

And

And as to our Merchants Ships and Goods, they are in no more danger now than they were in any War whensoever, there was more expectation of this, than there was of the last War, for the first notice we or the Dutch had of that Breach, was the Attempt upon their *Smirna* Fleet.

Also it is observed, that what was said a fortnight ago (that the season was too far advanced to lay in Beef, and it would be admitted to be in state, for that now it was urged, that a greater and better appointed Fleet must be furnished out, but still it was insisted on, that they were in the dark, his Majesty did not speak out, that he would make the desired Alliances against the growth of *France*, and resolve with his Parliament to maintain them, and so long as there was any coldness or reservedness of this kind, they had no clear grounds to grant money for preparations. His Majesty was a Prince of that Goodness and Care, towards his People, that none did distrust him; but there was a distrust of some of his Ministers, and Jealousie that they were under *French* Influence, and Complaints and Addresses had been made against them; and upon the discourse of providing for the safety of the Nation, it being said we might be secured by the *Guaranty* of the General Peace, it was reflected on as a thing most pernicious to us, and that our money and endeavours could not be worse applied, than to procure that Peace. Articles are not to be relied on. All that they desired was, that his Majesty and his People Unanimously, Truly, Sincerely and Thoroughly declare and engage in this business, with a mutual confidence speaking out on both sides, and this, and nothing but this, would discharge and extinguish all jealousies.

But it was Objected, It was not convenient to discover his Majesties secret purposes in a Publick Assembly, it might be too soon known abroad, and there was no reason to distrust his Majesty; but that being enabled, he would prepare and do all things convenient for the Kingdom.

It was answered, That it was usual for *Foraine* Ministers to get notice of the Councils of Princes, as the Earl of *Bristol* Amba

Ambassador in *Spain*, in the last part of *King James's* Reign procured Coppies, and often the sight of the Originals, Dispatches, and Cabinet papers of the King of *Spain*. He acknowledging that his Majesties Councils cannot be penetrated by the *French*, yet the things would in a short time discover themselves: besides they said, they did not much desire secrecy, for let the King take a great Resolution, and put himself at the Head of his Parliament and People in this weighty and worthy Cause of *England*, and let a flying Post carry the news to *Paris*, and let the *French* King do his worst.

His Majesty never had nor never will have cause to distrust his People. In 1667, in confidence of our Aid, he made a League without advice of Parliament (commonly called the *Tripple League*) which was for the Interest of *England*, and whereby his Majesty became the Arbitrer of *Christendom*, and in the Name and upon the Account of that, the Parliament gave him several Supplies.

In 1671, He made War without the Advice of Parliament, which War the Parliament thought not for the Interest of *England* to continue, yet even therein they would not leave him, but gave him 1200000 *l.* to carry himself on and out of it.

How much more are they concerned and obliged to supply and assist him in these Alliances (and War if it ensue) which are so much for the Interest of *England*, and entered into by the pressing Advice of Parliament.

We hope his Majesty will declare himself in earnest, and we are in earnest, having his Majesties heart with us, Let his hand Rot off that is not stretcht out for this Affair, we will not stick at this or that sum or thing, but we will go with his Majesty to all Extremities.

We are now afraid of the *French* King, because he has great forces, and extraordinary thinking men about him, which mannage his affairs to a wonder, but we trust his Majesty will have his Business mananged by thinking men, that will be provident and careful of his Interest, and not suffer him to pay, *Cens. per Cent.* more than the things are worth,

north, that are taken up and used, and if the work be entered upon in this manner, we hope *England* will have *English* success with *France*, as it is in Bowling, if your Bowl be well set out, you may wink, and it will go to the Mark.

Were the thing clear and thoroughly undertaken, there would be less reason to dispute of time, there never was a Council but would sit on *Sunday*, or any day for such Publick Work.

In fine, they said, the business must lye at one door or another, and they would not for any thing that it should flat in their hands.

And although they should hope in an Exigence his Majesty would lend to his People, who had given so much to him, yet they said they could not leave him without providing him a sum of money, as much as he could use between this and some convenient time after *Easter*, when he might, if he please command their full attendance, by some publick Notification, and this was the mentioned sum of 200000 *l.* The expedient they provided for doing this, was adding a Borrowing Clause to the Bill for almost 600000 *l.* (such an one as was in the *Poll Bill*) the Effect of which is to enable his Majesty presently to take up, on the Credit of this Bill 200000 *l.* ready money at 7 *l.* per Cent. per annum Interest.

And this they said might now be done, though the Bill were passed by them, and also (save that they had made the above mentioned amendment) by the Lords, for that *Poll Bill* was explained by another Act passed a few days after, in the same Session. But in *Hackwells Modus tenendi Parli.* pag. 173, was a more remarkable Precedent, and exact in the Point.

But after some Discourse of setting loose part of this 600000 *l.* &c. they reflected that this 600000 *l.* &c. was appropriated for the building of Ships, and they would not have this appropriation unhinged by any means, and thereupon resolved to annex the borrowing Clause to the Bill for continuing the additional duty of Excise, for three years, which was not yet passed; against which it was Objected, That:

That it was given for other purposes, viz. to give the King ease to pay Interest for his Debts. But on the contrary it was answered, that the Preamble speaks not of his Debts but His extraordinary Occasions. But besides, they did not intend to withdraw so much of their Gift, but did resolve to re-emburse his Majesty the 200000 L. so much of it as he should lay out on extraordinary Preparations.

But then it was Objected, that this would be a kind of denouncing of War, and that 200000 L. was a miserable, mean and incompetent sum to defend us against the French whom we should provoke.

But it was Answered That it was but an Harbess of what they intended, and that they were willing to meet again and give further Supplies. Besides the French King was not formidable for any great hurt that he could do us during the Confederacy, there were several Princes of Germany, as the Arch Bishop of Metz and Trier, the Palgrave the Duke of Ansburch, &c. which are at War with him, and are so weak, and yet they are much more weak and inconsiderable than we; but they are defended not by their own strength, but by the whole Confederacy.

The Debate concluded, and the whole House Voting the following Answer, which was presented to his Majesty by the Speaker of the whole House, Friday April the 13th.

May it please your Majesty, most yd. b. l. s. q. stow
WE your Majesties most dutiful and Loyal Subjects the Commons in this present Parliament Assembled do with Great Satisfaction of mind, Observe the regard your Majesty is pleased to Express to our former Addresses, by Intervening to us the late alterations of Affairs abroad, and do return our most humble thanks for your Majesties most Gracious Offer made to us thereupon in your late message, and having taken a serious deliberation of the same, and of the preparations your Majesty hath therein intimated to us were fitting to be made, in order to that publick end we have for the present provided a Security in a Bill for the Addition

of duty of Excise, upon which your Majesty may raise the sum
 200000 l. And if your Majesty shall think fit to call us together
 for this purpose, in some short time after Easter, by any pu-
 blick signification of your pleasure, commanding our Attendance; we
 shall at our next meeting not only be ready to re-imburse your Ma-
 jesty what Sums of money shall be expended upon such Extraordi-
 nary preparations as shall be made in pursuance of our former Ad-
 dresses; but shall likewise with thankful hearts proceed then, and at
 all other times, to furnish your Majesty with so large proportion of
 assistance and supplies upon this Occasion, as may give your Majesty
 and the whole world, an ample Testimony of our Loyalty and affe-
 ction to your Majesties service, and as may enable your Majesty by
 the help of Almighty God, to maintain such stricter Alliances as
 you shall have entred into against all Opposition whatsoever.

Easter Monday, April 19th. Another Message in writing
 from his Majesty, was delivered by Secretary Williamson to
 the House of Commons (Viz.)

C. R.

HIS Majesty having considered the Answer of this
 House, to the last message about enabling him to
 make fitting preparations for the security of these King-
 doms, finds by it that they have only enabled him to borrow
 200000 l. upon a *Fond* given him for other uses: His Ma-
 jesty desires therefore this House should know, and he
 hopes they will always believe of him, that not only that
Fond, but any other within his Power shall be engaged to
 the utmost of his power for the preservation of his King-
 doms; but as his Majesties condition is (which his Majesty
 doubts not but is as well known to this House as himself)
 he must tell them plainly, that without the sum of Six
 hundred thousand pounds, or Credit for such a sum, upon
 new *Fonds*, it will not be possible for him to speak, or act
 those things which should answer the ends of their several
 Addresses, without exposing the Kingdom to much Greater
 danger: His Majesty doth further acquaint you that having
 done

"done his part, and laid the true state of things before you
 "he will not be wanting to use the best means for the safety
 "of his People, which his present Condition is Capable of."

Given at our Court at *White-Hall*, April 16. 1677.

Thereupon the House fell into present Consideration of an Answer, and in the first place, it was agreed to return Great thanks to his Majesty for his Zeal for the safety of the Kingdom, and the hopes he had given them that he was convinced and satisfied, so as he would speak and act according to what they had desired, and they resolved to give him the utmost assurance that they would stand by him, and said none could be unwilling to give a fourth or third part to save the residue. But they said they ought to consider that now they were a very thine House, many of their Members being gone home, and that upon such a Ground as they could not well blame them, for it was upon a presumption that the Parliament should rise before *Easter*, as had been intimated from his Majesty within this fortnight, and universally expected since, and it would be un-Parliamentary, and very ill taken by their Fellow-members, if in this their absence they should steal the Privilege of granting money, and the Thanks which are given for it; That this was a National business if ever any were, and therefore fit to be handled in a full National Representative, and if it had hitherto seemed to go up hill, there was a greater cause to put the whole shoulder to it, and this would be assuring, animating, and satisfactory to the whole Nation. But they said it was not their mind to give or suffer any delay, they would desire a Recess but for three weeks or a moneth at most.

And the 200000 £. which they had provided for present use, was as much as could be laid out in the mean time, so his Majesty had 600000 £. more ready told upon the Table.

And therefore they thought it most reasonable and advisable that his Majesty should suffer them to Adjourn for such a time; in the Interim of which his Majesty might if he pleased, make use of the 200000 £. and might also com-
 pleat

the desired Alliances, and give notice by Proclamation to all Members to attend at the time appointed.

The Answer is as followeth.

May it please your Majesty.

WE your Majesty's most Loyal Subjects, the Commons in this present Parliament Assembled, having considered your Majesty's last Message, and the gracious expressions therein contained, for employing your Majesty's whole Revenue at any time to raise money for the preservation of your Majesty's Kingdoms; and great cause to return our most humble thanks to your Majesty for the same, and to desire your Majesty to rest assured, that you shall find us much duty and affection in us, as can be expected from a most Loyal People, to their most gracious Sovereign, and whereas your Majesty is pleased to signify to us, that the sum of 200000*l*. is not sufficient without a farther Supply, to enable your Majesty to Speak or Act those things which are desired by your People, We humbly take leave to acquaint your Majesty, that many of our Members (being upon an expectation of an Adjournment before Easter) are gone into their several Countries, we cannot think it Parliamentary in their absence to take upon us the granting of money, but do therefore desire your Majesty to be pleased that this House may Adjourn it self for such short time, before the sum of 200000*l*. can be expended, as your Majesty shall think fit, and by your Royal Proclamation to command the attendance of all our Members at the day of Meeting; by which time we hope your Majesty may have so formed your Affairs, and fixed your Alliances, in pursuance of our former Addresses, that your Majesty may be graciously pleased to Impart them to us in Parliament, and we no ways doubt but at our next Assembling, your Majesty will not only meet with a Compliance in the Supply your Majesty desires, but withal such farther Assistance as the posture of your Majesty's Affairs shall require; in confidence whereof we hope your Majesty will be encouraged in the meantime to Speak and Act such things as your Majesty shall judge necessary for attaining those great ends, as ye have formerly represented to your Majesty.

And now the money Bill being passed both Houses, and the *French* having by the Surrender of *Cambray* also to them, perfected the Conquest of this *Campagne*, as was projected, and the money for further preparations having been asked, only to gain a pretence for refusing their Addresses, the Houses were adjourned *April* the 16th, till the 21. of *May* next. And the rather, because at the same moment of their rising, a Grand *French* Embassador was coming over. For all things betwixt *France* and *England* moved with that punctual Regularity, that it was like the Harmony of the Spheres, so Consonant with themselves, although we cannot hear the musick.

There landed immediately after the Recess, the Duke of *Creguy*, the Arch-Bishop of *Rheims*, Monsieur *Barrillon*, and a Train of three or four hundred persons of all Qualities, so that the Lords Spiritual and Temporal of *France*, with so many of their Commons, meeting the King at *Newmarket*, it looked like another Parliament, And that the *English* had been Adjourned, in order to their better Reception. But what Address they made to his Majesty, or what Acts they passed, hath not yet been Published. But those that have been in discourse were,

An Act for continuing his Majesties subjects in the service of France.

An Act of abolition of all Claims and demands from the subjects of France, on Account of all Prizes made of the English at Sea, since the Year 1674. till that day, and for the future.

An Act for marrying the Children of the Royal Family to Protestant Princes.

An Act for a further supply of French money.

But because it appears not that all these, and many others of more secret nature, passed the Royal Assent, it sufficeth thus far to have mentioned them. Only it is most certain, that although the *English* Parliament was kept aloof from the business of War, Peace, and Alliance, as improper for their intermedling, & Presumptuous. Yet with these 3 Estates of *France* all these things were Negotiated and transacted in the

the greatest confidence. And so they were Adjourned from *New-Market* to *London*, and there continued till the return of the *English* Parliament, when they were dismissed home with all the signs and demonstrations of mutual satisfaction.

And for better *Preparations* at home, before the Parliament met, there was Printed a second Packet of Advice to the men of *Shaftsbury*, the first had been sold up and down the Nation, and Transmitted to *Scotland*, where 300 of them were Printed at *Edinburgh*: and 40 Copies sent from thence to *England* fairly bound up and Gilded, to shew in what great Estimation it was in that Kingdom; But this, the tale growing heavy, was dispersed as a Donative all over *England*, and it was an Incivility to have enquired from whence they had it, but it was a Book though it came from Hell, that seemed as if it dropped from Heaven, among men, some imagined by the weight and the wit of it, that it proceeded from the Two Lords, the Black and the White, who when their care of the late Sitting was over, had given themselves *Carriere*, and after the Triumphs of the *Tongue*, had Establish'd those Trophies of the *Pen*, over their Imprisoned Adversaries. But that had been a thing unworthy of the *Frenchwellian* Generosity, or *Trerisian* Magnanimity; And rather befits the mean malice of the same Vulgar Scribler, hired by the Conspirators at so much a sheet, or for day wages; and when that is spent, he shall for less money Blaspheme his God, Revile his Prince, and Belye his Country, if his former Books have Omitted any thing of those Arguments; and shall Curse his own Father into the Bargain.

Monday, May 21. 1677.

The Parliament met according to their late Adjournment, on, and from *April 1616. to May 21. 1677.*

There was no speech from the King to the Parliament, but in the House of Commons.

This Meeting was opened with a verbal message from his Majesty, delivered by Secretary *Conventry*, wherein his Majesty acquaint-

acquainted the Houle, that having according to their
in their Answer to his late Message *April 16th.* directed their
Adjournment to this time, because they did alledge it to be
unparliamentary to grant Supplies when the Houle was so
thin, in expectation of a speedy Adjournment; and having
also Issued out his Proclamation of summons to the end there
might be a full Houle, he did now expect they would forth-
with enter upon the consideration of his last message, and
the rather, because he did intend there should be a Reply
very quickly.

Upon this it was moved, That the Kings last Message
(of *April 16.*) And the Answer thereto should be Read, and
they were read accordingly.

Thereupon, after a long silence, a discourse began about
their expectation, and necessity of Alliances.

And particularly, it was intimated that an Alliance with
Holland was most expedient, for that we should deceive our-
selves if we thought we could be defended otherwise, we
alone could not withstand the *French*, his purse and power
was too great. Nor could the *Dutch* withstand him. But both
together might.

The general discourse was, that they came with an expecta-
tion to have Alliances declared, and if they were not made
so as to be imparted, they were not called or come to that
purpose they desired, and hoped to meet upon, and if some
few days might ripen them, they would be content to Adourn
for the mean time.

The Secretary and others said, these Alliances were things
of great weight and difficulty, and the time had been short,
but if they were finisht, yet it was not convenient to publish
them, till the King was in a readines and posture to prosecute
and maintain them, till when his Majesty could not so much
as speak out, insisting on his words, *That without 600000 l.*
it would not be possible for him to speak or Act those things which
should answer the ends of their severall Addresses, without expo-
sing the Kingdom to much greater dangers.

By others it was observed and said, That they met now upon a publick notice by Proclamation, which Proclamation was in pursuance of their last Address, in which Address they desire the King they may Adjourn for such time, as with in which (they hoped) Alliances might be fixed, so as to be imparted. they mentioned not any particular day, If his Majesty had not thought this time long enough for the purpose, he might have appointed the Adjournment for a longer time; or he might have given notice by Proclamation, that upon this account they should re-adjourn to a yet longer time.

But surely, the time has been sufficient, especially considering the readiness of the Parties to be Allied with, it is five weeks since our Recess. He that was a Minister chiefly employed in making the *Tripple League*, has since published in print that, that League was made in five days, and yet that might well be thought a matter more tedious and long then this; For when people are in profound peace (as the *Dutch* then were) it was not easy to embark them presently into Leagues. They had time and might take it for greater deliberation. But here the people are in the distress of War, and need our Alliance, and therefore it might be contracted with ease and expedition, were we as forward as they.

Neither is five weeks the limit of the time, that has been for this purpose, for it is about ten weeks since we first Addressed for these Alliances.

And as to the Objection, That it was not fit to make them known before preparation were made, they said, the force of that lay in this, that the *French* would be alarmed. But they answered that the asking and giving money for this purpose would be no less an Alarm. For the *French* could not be ignorant of what Addresses and Answers have passed; and if money be granted to make warlike preparations, for the end therein specified, it is rather a greater discovery and denouncing of what we intended against the *French*.

Grosius (*de jure Belli & Pacis*) says, If a Prince make

extra

extraordinary preparations, a neighbour Prince who may be affected by them may expostulate, and demand an account of the purpose for which they are intended, and if he receive not satisfaction, that they are not to be used against him, it is a cause of War on his part, so as that Neighbour may begin if he think fit, and is not bound to stay till the first preparer first begin actual Hostility, and this is agreeable to reason, and the nature of Government.

Now the *French* King is a vigilant Prince, and has wise Ministers about him, upon which general account (tho we had not as we have seen an extraordinary *French* Embassy here during our Recess) we should suppose that the *French* King has demanded an account of our Kings purpose, and whether the extraordinary preparations that are begun and to be made are designed against him or not. In which case his Majesty could give but one of three answers,

1. To say, They are not designed against him, and then his Majesty may acquaint us with the same, and then there is no occasion of giving our money.

2. To say, They are designed against him, in which case his Majesty may very well impart the same to us. For it were in vain to conceal it from us, to the end that the *French* might not be alarmed, when it is before expressly told the *French*, that the design was against him.

3. To give a doubtful answer. But that resolves into the second. For when a Prince out of an apprehension that extraordinary preparations may be used against him, desires a clear categorical and satisfactory answer concerning the matter (as the manner of Princes is) a dubious answer does not at all satisfy his inquiry, nor allay his jealousy; But in that case it is, and is used, to be taken and understood, that the forces are designed against him.

And if his Majesty have given no answer at all (which is not probable) it is the same with the last.

So that this being so, by one means or other the *French* have the knowledge of the Kings purpose, and if it be known

on but guessed at by them, why is it concealed from his Parliament? Why this darkness towards us?

Besides we expect not so much good as we would, so long as we are afraid the *French* should know what we are adoin.

In this state of uncertainty, and unripeness the House Adjourned to *Wednesday* morning nine a clock, having first ordered the Committee for the Bill for recalling his Majesties Subjects out of the service of the *French* King, to sit this afternoon, which did sit accordingly, and went thorough the Bill.

Wednesday, May 23d. 1677.

His Majesty sent a Message for the House to attend him presently at the Banqueting House in *White-Hall*, where he made the following Speech to them.

Gentlemen,

I have sent for you hither, that I might prevent those mistakes and distresses which I find some are ready to make, as if I had called you together, only to get money from you, for other uses than you would have it employed. I do assure you on the Word of a King, that you shall not repent any trust you repose in me, for the safety of my Kingdoms; and I desire you to believe I would not break my Credit with you, but as I have already told you, that it will not be possible for me to speak or Act those things which should answer the ends of your several Addresses, without exposing my Kingdoms to much greater dangers, so I declare to you again, I will neither hazard my own safety, nor yours, until I be in a better condition than I am able to put myself, both to defend my Subjects and offend my Enemies.

I do further assure you, I have not lost one day since your last meeting, in doing all I could for your defence; and I tell you plainly, it shall be your fault and not mine if your Security be not sufficiently provided for.

The Commons returning to their House, and the Speech being there read, they presently resolved to consider it, and after a little while resolved into a Committee of the whole House, for the more fully free, and regular debate.

The Secretary and others propounded the supplying the King, wherein they said they did not press the House, but they might do as they pleased. But if it be expected that Alliances be made, and made known, there must be 600000 l. raised to make preparation before, for the King had declared that without it, it could not be possible for him to *Speak* ~~or~~; he could not safely move a step further. The King had the right of making Peace, War, and Leagues, as this House has of giving money, he could not have money without them, nor they Alliance without him. The King had considered this matter, and this was his Judgment, That he ought by such a sum to be put into a posture to maintain and prosecute his Alliance, before they could or should be declared, and truly otherwise our nakedness and weakness would be exposed.

'Tis true as has been Objected, the asking and giving money for this purpose, would alarm as much as the declaring Alliance, but then it would defend too. A Whip will alarm a wild Beast, but it will not defend the man, a Sword will alarm the Beast too, but then it will also defend the man.

We know the King would strip himself to his shirt rather than hazard the Nation. He has done much already, he has set out, and made ready to set out 44 Ships, but they must be distributed to several places for Convoys, &c. There would need, it may be 40 more in a body. And it is difficult to get Seamen, many are gone into the service of the *French, Dutch, &c.* The King is fain to press now,

The King has not had any fruit of the 200000 l. credit provided him upon the three years Excise, he has tryed the City to borrow money of them; thereupon, and my Lord Mayor returned answer, that he had endeavoured but could not encourage his Majesty to depend upon the City for it.

Several others, somewhat different, spake to this effect, We should consider in this case, as in the case of the Kings Letters, Patents, Proclamations, &c. If any thing in them be against Law and Reason, Lawyers and Courts, Judge is void, and reckon it not to be said or done by the King. For

the King can do no wrong, tho his Counsel may. So we must look upon the Kings Speeches and Messages as the product of Counsel, and therefore if any mistake be therein, it must be imputed to the error of his Counsel, and it must be taken that the King never said it. Now to apply certainly the treating and concluding of Alliances, requires not a previous sum of money, however the Kings Counsel may misinform. They may be propounded and accepted, by the means of the Foreign Ministers, even without an Embassy to be sent hence, and yet if that were requisite, it were not an extraordinary charge.

Alliances may be made forthwith, and then money would be granted forthwith; If they were declared to day, the 600000 l. should be given to morrow, and as occasion should require.

And there is no fear but money would be found for this purpose, our own Extravagancies would maintain a War.

The money which has been provided the King already this Session, is sufficient for all Preparations that can possibly be made before these Alliances may be made.

Forty Ships of ours with the help of the Dutch, are a good Defence against the French at Sea, now he is so entangled with Sicily, the West Indies, &c. In the Triple League it was stipulated, that forty of our Ships, and forty of the Dutch, should be provided, and they were thought sufficient for the purpose.

If it were required that 40 more Ships should be set out, 600000 l. is enough to maintain and pay a whole year clear for the Carpenters work, and such like as should presently be required, for the fitting them to go out a little money will serve.

And surely this is the only preparation that can be meant, for it should be meant, that we should fortifie the Land with Forts, Garrisons, walled Towns, &c. it is not 6 millions will do it. But our strength, force and defence, is our Ships. For the debate of this day it is as great and weighty as ever was any in England, it concerns our very being, and includes our Religion, Liberty, and Property; The door towards France

*France must be shut and Guarded, for so long as it is open our Treas-
ure and Trade will creep out and their Religion creep in it, and
this time is our season, some mischief will be done us, and so
there will at any time when the War is begun, but now the
least.*

The *French* is not very dangerous to us, nor to be much
feared by us at this present, but we ought to advise and act so
now, as we may not fear or despair hereafter when the *French*
shall make peace beyond Sea, and likely he will make Al-
liances with those People with whom we defer to make
them; How ripe and great is our misery then.

The power and policy of the *French* is extraordinary, and
his money influences round about him.

We are glad to observe upon what is said by and of the
King, that his Majesty agrees with us in the end, and we hope
he will be convinced of the reasonableness of the means,
which is to make and follow these Alliances, without which
plainly we can give no account to our selves, or those we
represent, of giving money.

We have made several Addresses about some of the Kings
Ministers, their management, &c. Of which we have seen
little fruit, Their have continually almost to his hour gone
out of *England* succours to *France*, of Men, Powder, Ammu-
nition, Ordnance, &c. Not to rake into the matter, how far
the Ministers have been active or passive in this, nor to men-
tion any other particulars, we must say that unless the Mi-
nisters, or their minds are altered, we have no reason to trust
money in their hands, Though we declare we have no pur-
pose to arraign or attempt upon them, but would rather pro-
pose to them an easy way how they might have Oblivion,
nay, and the thanks of the People, viz. That they should en-
deavour and contend, who could do most to dispose the King
to Comply with this advice of his Parliament.

We think the prosecuting these Alliances, the only good
use for which our money can be employed, and therefore
before we give, we would be secure it should be applied to
this

this purpose, and not by miscouncels be diverted to others.
This is the mature Counsel of the Parliament, and no
Cross or other Counsel is to be received or Trusted, for at-
taining these great advices which the King and Parliament
are agreed on.

To part with money before Alliances are made, is needless
and to no purpose, at best it would be the way to spend that
money before hand in vain, which we shall need hereafter,
when we shall be forced to enter into this defence against
France.

It would be like an errour committed in the late Kings
time, and which looks as if men had given Counsel on pur-
pose to destroy that Good King, he had by the care and
faithfulness of Bishop *Foster* and others, Collected and
preserved a good sum of money before the *Scottish* Rebellion,
in *One thousand Six hundred Thirty nine*, upon that Rebellion
he was advised to raise an Army at Land, which indeed was
necessary, But he was likewise advised to set out several of
his great Rate Ships, this appeared in the papers of Sir *Robert*
Jones Office, and may there be seen still, if the Papers are
not scattered. A man cannot tell to what end this advise was
given, unless to spend the Kings money, for the Admiralty
of *Scotland* is not now, and much less then was so confide-
rable, as to require any such force against it. And if the de-
sign were to hinder their Commerce and succours by Sea,
the charge of one of those great Ships might have been di-
vided and applied to the setting out five or six less Ships, each
of which was capable of doing as much for that service, as
such a great one, and could keep out at Sea longer.

It is a plain case, unless the power of *France* be lowred we
cannot be safe, without Conjunction with other Confede-
rates, it cannot be done. The question is, whether the present
be the proper time for the work. Certainly it is, there is a
happy Confederation against the *French*, which we cannot
so well hope to have continued without our coming into it,
much less can we hope to recover or recruite it, if once broken.
The

The very season of the year favours the business. It is proper and safe to begin with the *French* in the summer, now he is engaged and not at Leisure, whereas in Winter when the Armies are drawn out of the Field he will be able to apply himself to us.

As to the Citizens not advancing money upon the late credit, we are informed they were never regularly or effectually asked, my Lord Mayor indeed was spoken to, and perhaps some of the Aldermen, but all they are not the City, he sent about curiously to some of the Citizens, to know if they would lend, of which they took little or no notice, it being not agreeable to their way and usage, for the custom in such cases has always been, that some Lord of the Council did go down to the Common Council, which is the Representative body of the City, and there propound the matter.

Besides in this particular case the Citizens generally asked the same question we do: are the Alliances made, and said they were made they would lend money; but if not, they saw no cause for it.

Philip the second of *Spain* made an observation in his Will, or some last Memorial, and 'tis since published in Print by Monsieur, he observes the vanity of any Princes aspiring at the universal Monarchy, for that it naturally made the rest of the world jointly his enemies, but ambition blinds men, suffers them not to look back on such Experiences. But this observation shows what is natural for others to do in such a case, and that the way to repel and break such a design, is by their universal confederation.

Philip the Second was most capable of making this Observation, for in his hands perished the *Spanish* Design of the Universal Monarchy, and that chiefly by reason of the Conjunction of the *English* and *Dutch* against him.

In the process of this debate, Gentlemen did more particularly explain themselves, and propounded to Address their design to the King, for a League offensive and defensive, with the *Dutch* against the *French* power.

Against

(103)
Against which a Specious Objection was made, That the
Dutch were already treating with the *French*, and 'twas like
they would slip Collar, make a separate Peace for themselves,
and leave us engaged in a War with *France*.

To which was Answered, That there was no just fear of
that, the *Dutch* were Interested in repressing the Power of
France as well as we, and they knew their Interest; It was
reasonable for them to say, If *England*, which is as much con-
cerned in this danger, will not assist us, we will make the
best terms we can for our selves, there is yet a Seam of Land
between the *French* and us, we may Trade by or under
them, &c.

But if *England* will joyn with the *Dutch*, they cannot find
one syllable of reason to desert the Common Cause.

They have observed a propensity in the People of *England*
to help them, but not in the Court of *England*. If they can
find that the Court does heartily joyn, it will above all things
oblige and confirm them.

In One thousand six hundred sixty seven, when the *Dutch*
were in Peace and Plenty, when *Flanders* was a greater Bull-
work to them, for the *French* had not pierced so far into it,
and when the direction of their affairs was in a hand of in-
veterate enmity to the Crown of *England* (*John de Witt*) yet
then their Interest did so far Govern him and them, as to en-
ter into the Tripple League, against the growth and power of
France, and keep it more, and most certainly therefore now
they are exhausted and weakened by a War, and stand in need
of our help, now the *French* have approached nearer the brink
of their Country, and are increased in Naval force to the
danger of their Trade and Navigation, and now their affairs
are chiefly directed by a kinsman of the Crown of *England*,
the Prince of *Orange*, they cannot desert or start from a
League they make with us against our Common Enemy.

It was moved, that there might be a League Offensive and
Defensive with *Spain* and the *Dutch*, and other convenient
Alliances with the rest of the Confederates, but the particular
con-

concerning *Spain*, was retracted and laid aside by the general Discourse of the Members to this purpose. We do cover our Alliance with *Spain* above others, for that they are Owners of the *Netherlands*, for whose preservation we have Addressed, that it is with *Spain* that we have the most, if not the only profitable Trade, and the *Spaniards* are good, gallant and sure Friends. But they are remote, and we know not whether there are full powers here or at *Brussels* for this matter, and to wait for their coming from *Madrid* would make Church-work, whereas we need the swiftest expedition.

Therefore they Voted their Address to be particular and expressly for such a League with the *Dutch*, and as to the *Spaniards* together with the other Confederates in general.

This passed with very general consent, there was an extraordinary full House, and upon putting the question, there were but two negative Voices to it.

There were more then ordinary particulars appointed to be in the Address, but no contest or debate about them.

The Vote was as followeth;

Resolved,

That an Address be made to the King, That his Majesty would be pleased to enter into a League, offensive and defensive with the States General of the United Provinces, and to make such other Alliances with any of the Confederates, as his Majesty shall think fit, against the growth and power of the French King, and for the preservation of the Spanish *Netherlands*, and that a Committee be appointed to draw up the Address, with reasons why this House cannot comply with his Majesties Speech, until such Alliances be entered into, and further shewing the necessity of the speedy making such Alliances, and when such Alliances are made, giving his Majesty Assurance of speedy and cheerful supplies, from time to time, for supporting and maintaining such Alliances.

To which (the Speaker re-assuming the Chair, and this being reported) the House agreed, and appointed the Committee.

And Adjourned over *Ascension-day* till Friday.

the Institution, the Committee appointed, met and drew
the Address according to the above mentioned Order, a true
Copy of which is here annexed.

May it please your Most excellent Majesty,

YOUR Majesties most Loyal and Dutiful Subjects, the
Commons in Parliament Assembled, have taken into
their serious consideration your Majesties gracious Speech,
and do beseech your Majesty, to believe it is a great affliction
to them, to find themselves obliged (at present) to decline
the granting you Majesty the supply your Majesty is pleased
you demand, conceiving it is not agreeable to the usage of
Parliaments to grant Supplies for maintenance of Wars,
and Alliances, before they are signified in Parliament (which
was the case against the States of the United Provinces,
since your Majesties happy Restoration, and the League
made in 1668, for the preservation of the Spanish Ne-
therlands, sufficiently proved, without troubling your Ma-
jesty with instances of greater antiquity, from which usage
if we might depart, the precedent might be of dangerous
consequence in future times, though your Majesties Good-
ness gives us great security during your Majesties Reign,
which we devoutly God bless to continue to us.)
This Consideration prompted us in our last Address to
your Majesty, before our late Recess, humbly to mention to
your Majesty, our hopes, that before our meeting again your
Majesties Alliances might be foretold that your Majesty
might be graciously pleased to impart them to us in Par-
liament, that from our earnest desire of supplying your Majesty,
for prosecuting those great ends, we humbly laid be-
fore your Majesty might meet with no impediment or ob-
struction; being highly sensible of the necessity of support-
ing as well as making the Alliances, which we still conceive so im-
portant to the safety of your Majesty and your Kingdoms,
That we cannot (without unfaithfulness to your Majesty

and

and those we Represent) omit upon all occasions, humbly
 to beseech your Majesty, as we now do, To enter into an
 offensive and defensive with the States General of the United Pro-
 vinces, against the growth and power of the French King, and for
 the preservation of the Spanish Netherlands, and to make such
 other Alliances, with such other of the Confederates, as your Ma-
 jesty shall think fit and useful to that end; in doing which (that
 no time may be lost) we humbly offer to his Majesty these
 Reasons for the expediting of it.

1. That if the entering into such Alliances, should draw
 on a War with the French King, it would be least detrimen-
 tal to your Majesties Subjects at this time of the year, they
 having now fewest effects, within the Dominion of the
 King.

2. That though we have great reason to believe the pow-
 er of the French King to be dangerous, to your Majesty and
 your Kingdoms, when he shall be so more leisurely to molest
 us; yet we conceive the many enemies he has to deal
 with at present, together with the situation of your Majesty's
 Kingdoms, the vigilancy of the people to the Cause, the care
 your Majesty hath been pleased to take of your ordinary
 Guards of the Sea, together with the Credit provided by
 the late Act for an additional Excise for three years make
 the entering into, and declaring Alliances very safe, until we
 may in a regular way give your Majesty such further sup-
 plies, as may enable your Majesty to support your Alliances
 and defend your Kingdoms.

And because of the great danger and charge which must
 necessarily fall upon your Majesty's Kingdoms, if thro' want
 of that timely encouragement and assistance which your Ma-
 jesties Joyning with the States General of the United Pro-
 vinces, and other the Confederates would give them. The
 said States or any other considerable part of the Confede-
 rates, should this next Winter, or sooner, make a Peace or
 Truce with the French King (the prevention whereof must be
 prevented by your Majesty's assistance)

to be acknowledged a singular effect of Gods goodness to us) which if it should happen, your Majesty would be afterwards necessitated with fewer, perhaps with no Alliances or Assistance to withstand the power of the French King, which hath so long and so successfully contended with so many, and so potent Adversaries, and whilst he continues his overbalancing greatness, must alwayes be dangerous to his Neighbours, since he would be able to oppress any one Confederate, before the rest could get together, and be in so good a posture of offending him as they now are, being Joyntly engaged in a War. And if he should be so successful as to make a Peace, or dissolve the present Confederation against him, it is much to be feared, whether it would be possible ever to reunite it, at least it would be a Work of so much time and difficulty, as would leave your Majesty Kingdomes exposed to much misery and danger.

Having thus discharged our duty, in laying before your Majesty the dangers threatening you and your Kingdomes, and the only remedies we can think of for the preventing, securing and quieting the minds of your Majesties People; with some few of those Reasons which have moved us to this, and our former Addresses. On these Subjects; We most humbly beseech your Majesty to take the matter to your serious Consideration, and to take such Resolutions, as may not leave it in the power of any neighbouring Prince, to rob your People of that happiness which they enjoy, under your Majesties gracious Government, beseeching your Majesty to rest confident and assured, that when your Majesty shall be pleased to declare such alliances in Parliament, We shall hold our selves obliged, not only by our promises, and assurances given, and now with great Unanimity revived in a full House, but by the Zeal and desires of those whom we represent, and by the Interest of all our saferies, most cheerfully to give your Majesty from time to time such speedy Supplies, and Assistances, as may fully and plentifully Answer the Occasions, and by Gods blessing pre-

(1140)
'preserve your Majesties Honour and the Safety of the People.

All which is most humbly submitted to your Majesties Wisdom.

Friday May 25 1667
Sir John Trevor reported from the said Committee the Address, as 'twas drawn by them, which was read.

Whereupon it was moved to agree with the Committee but before it was agreed to, there was addresse and dividing of the House.

It was observed and objected that there was but one reason given herein for declining the granting money and that is the Unpresidentedness, and as to those of other Instances to this purpose mentioned; *Viz.* the Kings first Dutch War, it was said to be mistaken for that the 2500000 was voted before the War declared.

But it was answered, that if the Declaration was not before the grant of the money (which Ogilbye 'twas said that the War itself, and great Hostilities were before the money, and some said there might be other reasons assigned against giving money before the Alliance, but they rather desired to spare them, only in general said, 'twas unreasonable to grant money before there was a Change, they would not say of Counsellors but of Counsels, and as for your making these Alliances would be the best demonstration of that Change. For the swerving from this Interest and party was the step by which we went awry, and the returning thereto would restore us to our right place and duty.

And a Gentleman produced and read the English Speech made Monday the 10 of February 1667 wherein he speak chiefly of the League which after wards when the Speech came into it, was called the Triple League.

My Lords and Gentlemen.
I Am glad to see you here again to tell you what I have done in this Interval which I am confident you will be pleased

pleased wish, since it is so much to the Honour and security
 of the Nation. I have made a League Offensive and Defen-
 sive with the States of the United Provinces, and likewise a
 League for an efficacious mediation of Peace between the
 two Crowns; into which League that of Sweden by its Am-
 bassador hath offered to enter as a principal, I did not at
 our last meeting move you for any Aid, though I lie under
 great Debts contracted by the last War, but now the po-
 sition of our Neighbours abroad, and the consequence of this
 new Alliance will oblige me for our security to set out a
 considerable fleet to Sea this Summer, and besides I must
 build more great Ships, and tis as necessary that I do some-
 thing in order to the fortifying some of our Ports. I have
 begun my self in order to these ends, but if I have not your
 speedy Assistance, I shall not be able to go thorow with it,
 wherefore I do earnestly desire you to take it into your
 speedy consideration, &c.
 Which shews the proper course and practice, that Kings
 should communicate their Alliances made, before they demand
 Supplies upon the account of them.
 So that Exception was less fall.
 But the grand Objection managed against it, was upon the
 main point of the Address, wherein they desired his Majesty
 to make a League Offensive and Defensive with the Dutch, and
 such other *States* with the rest as he should think fit.
 Those who were against this particular (or particulariz-
 ing) in the Address, spoke to this effect.
 This is an Invasion upon his Majesties Prerogative of ma-
 king Peace, War and Leagues, and it is the worse for the Di-
 stinction that is used; in respect of the Dutch and the rest; by
 which you giving him express directions as to the Dutch, and
 referring to his discretion as to the others, it looks and gives
 an *Impugn* as if what he was to do was by your leave.
 The Ancient Land-mark, the Boundaries between King and
 People.

People must not be removed. This power is one of the things reserved entirely to the Crown. Parliaments are summoned to treat *de Arduis*, but *He, de quibusdam Arduis*, this is unprecedented.

The Marriages of the Royal Family is such a peculiar thing reserved to the King, and the matter of the Lady *Archie* is an Instance. Queen *Elizabeth* resented it high, that the Parliament should propound her marrying; and she said that however it is well they did not name the person, if they had named the person, it had been intollerable, now here you name the person whom you would have the King Ally.

If you may go so far you may come to draw a Treaty, and propose to the King to sign it, by this you would put a *Indecorum* upon the King, he is now concerned as a Mediator at *Vimwegen*, and it would be an indecent thing for him at the same time to declare himself a party. It is believed the House of *Austria* (though they sent full powers to *Vimwegen* for the purpose, yet) never intended to conclude a Peace. But it was an absurd thing for them to declare so in Publick. There must be publick decorum.

This is the way for the King to have the worse bargain with the Confederates, for they observing how he is importuned, and as it were driven to make these *Alliances*, will slacken and lessen those advantageous offers, which otherwise they would be forced to make.

And again and again, they said his Majesty did agree with this House in the end, and they did not doubt but he would prosecute it by the same means as was desired. But his Prerogative was not to be incroached upon. This manner of proceeding would never obtain with the King, may, it would make the Address miscarry with the King.

On the other side, several spoke to this effect.

We ought to consider, we are upon the Question of agreeing an Address drawn by our Committee, by our Order.

If they have not in matter and manner corresponded with our direction or intention, we have cause to disagree. But here the exception taken, and cause pressed why we should not agree with them is, because they have observed the very words and substance of our Order, which exactly justifieth this Draught.

This passed on *Wednesday*, upon a full Debate, in a very full House, two only contradicting, but not one speaking: or thinking the *Kings Prerogative* was toucht: and therefore 'tis strange it should be made the great *Objection* and *Question* of this day.

But the *Prerogative* is not at all intrench'd upon; we do not, nor do pretend to treat or make *Alliances*, we only offer our advice about them, and leave it with the King, he may do as he pleaseth, either make or not make them. It is no more than other persons may do to the King, nor doubtless the Privy Council may Advise him in this particular, and why not his Great Council? This rate of Discourse would make the *Kings Prerogative* consist meerly in not being advised by his Parliament (of all People.)

There are manifold Presidents of such Leagues have been made by Advice of Parliament, and have been ratified in Parliament in *Edw. 3. Rich. 2.* and especially in *Henry the Fifth* time, and particularly with *Sigismund the Emperor* and *King of the Romans*, and *Henry the fifth* was a magnanimous Prince and not rebel imposed upon.

and making Leagues is less than War. War is a
may well remember, our own advising the self. And we
and managing War. *War, Rhym. Coll. 3641. 12. 15. 16.* And we
874. The Parliament advised that they about making
- their terms; their necessity is too great to dabble or take ad-

But if there was no President in this particular Case, it was no *Objection*; for matter of advice is not to be circumscribed by President. If there be a new Case that a Prince should

should joyn in War, together with another Prince, that Prince was too potent before, and that when this was discerned, and a Peace made, yet Successors should continually go out of the first Princes Dominions to the service of the other Prince (and that notwithstanding several Addresses and advices to the contrary.

This true (as Objected) that the Commons have sometimes declined advising in the matter of War, or proposed to them. But that shews not their want of right to meddle therein, but rather the contrary. The very Truth is, it has been the desire and endeavour of Kings in all Ages, to engage their Parliaments in advising War, or that they might be obliged to supply the King to the utmost far and through it, but they out of a prudent caution have sometimes waded the matter, lest they should engage further and deeper than they were aware or willing.

Since his Majesty is treating as Mediator or Arbitrator about the general Peace, it is a great reason why he should specify the *Alliances* desired as we have done, that we might make it known, we are far from desiring such *Alliances* as might be made by and with a general Peace, but on the contrary coveting such as might prevent and secure us against that dangerous and formidable Peace.

Doubtless the Confederates will offer honourable and worthy terms; their necessity is too great to boggle or take advantages; nor will they think this League the less worth because we advise it, but rather value it the more, because it is done unanimously by the King with the Advice and applause of his People in Parliament.

We cannot suppose that our proceeding thus to his Majesty will prejudice our Address or endanger its miscarriage since it is for his Majesty's advantage, in that it obliges us to supply him to all degrees through this Affair, and the more particular it is, the more still for the Kings advantage, for if it had been more general, and the King thereupon had made Alliances, whatever they were, men might have thought and said they were not the Alliances intended, and it might be used as an excuse or reason for their not giving money to supply his Majesty hereafter, but this as it is now, doth most expressly, strictly and particularly bind us up.

We reflect that a great deal of time (and precious time) has been spent since and in our Address on this Subject, and finding no effectual fruit, especially of our last Address, we have cause to apprehend we are not clearly understood in what we mean. Now it is the ordinary way of pursuing discourse in such case, and it is proper and natural for us to speak (once) more explicitly and particularly, and tell his Majesty, That what we have meant is a League offensive and defensive. And to perswade us again to Address on, in more general Terms, as before, is to perswade us, that as we have done nothing this ten weeks, so we should do nothing still.

And since his Majesty in his late Message and last Speech, has been pleased to demand 600000*l*. for answering the purpose of our Addresses; and assures us that the money shall not be employed to other uses than we would have it employed, it is more seasonable for us to declare plainly the use and purpose we intend, that so it may be concerted and clearly understood of all hands, and therefore it is well done to mention to his Majesty these express Alliances, we thinking no other alliances, worth the said Sum, and we

withal promising and undertaking that his Majesty shall have this and more for these ends,

Nor have we any cause to apprehend that his Majesty will take amiss our advising Leagues in this manner. We have presented more than one Address for Alliances against the growth and power of the *French King* and his Majesty has received, admitted and answered them without any exception, and if we may Address for Alliances against a particular Prince or State, Why not for Alliances with a particular Prince or State? It cannot be less regular or Parliamentary then the former.

And moreover (though we know that punctual presents are on our side, besides our Commissions by our Writs to treat *de arduis & urgentibus Regem, Statum, & Defensionem Regni & Ecclesie Anglicane, concernentibus.* And besides the Kings General intimations in his Printed Speech, yet) if it be said to be a decent and proper thing to have his Majesties leave and consent, before we proceed on such a matter, in such a manner as we now do, we say that that in effect is with us too; for consider all our former Addresses, and his Majesties Answers and Messages thereupon, and it will appear that his Majesty has engaged and encouraged us too upon this Subject; and that which he expects and would have, is not to limit or check our advice, but to open and enlarge our gift. His Majesty appears content to be thoroughly advised, provided he be proportionably furnished and enabled with money, which we being now ready to do, we clearly and conclusively present him our advice for the application of it. To prevent those mistakes and distrusts which his Majesty says he finds some are so ready to make as if he had called us together only to get money from us, for other uses then we would have it imployed.

And truly the advising these Alliances, together with assuring his Majesty thereupon to assist and supply him presently, and plentifully to prosecute the same, is our only way of complying and corresponding with his last speech, For those Leagues followed and supported by these Supplies are the only means and methods to put his Majesty in the best condition, both to defend his Subjects, and offend his Enemies: and so there will be no fault in his Majesty nor Us, but His and Our security will sufficiently provide for.

Besides it will be worse, it will be a very bad thing indeed not to make the Address for this particular League, now since we have resolved it already. Our intention being to have the *Dutch*, &c. comforted, encouraged and assured we did order this on *Wednesday*, and there is publick notice taken of it abroad, and beyond Sea. If we should now upon solemn debate set the same aside, it would beget a great doubt, discomfort, and discouragement to them; It is one thing never to have ordered it; another to retract it.

Also it was said, that this was necessary, but was not all that was necessary, for suppose (which was not credible) that *France* should be prevailed with to deliver up all *Lorraine*, *Flanders*, *Alsatia*, and other Conquered places; Are we safe? No, He has too many Hands, too much Money, and this Money is in great measure (a Million Sterling yearly at least) supplied him from hence. We must depress him by force as far as may be, but further we must have Leagues and Laws to impoverish him, *We must destroy the French Trade*. This would quiet and secure us, this would make our Lands Rise, and this would enable us to set the King at ease.

After this long debate the House came to the Question Whether this particular of a League *Offensive and Defensive with the Dutch* should be left out of the Address, upon which Question, the House divided,

Yeas 142,

Noes 182.

So that it was carried by *Forty* that it should stand.

Then the main Question was put for agreeing, with their Committee, this Address, which passed in the Affirmative without Division of the House.

Then it was ordered, That those *Members* of the House, who were of his Majesties Privy Counsel, should move His Majesty to know his pleasure; when the House might wait upon him with their Address.

Mr. *Powel* reported from the Committee, *Amendments* to the Bill for recalling his Majesties Subjects out of the *French Kings* Service, which were Read and agreed to by the House and the Bill with the *Amendments* Ordered to be Ingrossed.

And then the House adjourned to the morrow.

Saturday, may 26. in the morn.

The House being late had notice by Secretary *Coventry*, That the King would receive their Address at three in the afternoon.

The Bill for recalling his Majesties Subjects, &c. being then Ingrossed, was read the Third Time and Passed; The effect of the Bill in short was this,

That all and every of the Natural born Subjects of His Majesty who should continue or be, after the first of *August* next, in the military service of the *French King*, should be disabled to inherit any Lands, Tenements or Hereditaments, and be incapable of any Gift, Grant or Legacy, or to be Executor or Administrator; and being convicted, should be adjudged guilty of *Felony*, without benefit of the Clergy, and

and not pardonable by *His Majesty*, his Heirs or Successors: except only by Act of Parliament, wherein such Offenders should be particularly named.

The like appointment for such as should continue in the Sea-service, of the *French King*, after the first of *May*, 1678.

This Act as to the prohibiting the offence, and incurring the penalties, to continue but for two years, but the executing and proceeding upon it for Offences against the Act, might be at any time, as well after as within the two years.

Then it was Ordered, that Mr *Powel* should carry up this Bill to the Lords, and withal should put the Lords in mind, of a Bill for *The better suppressing the growth of Popery*, which they had sent up to their Lordships before *Easter*, which was forthwith done accordingly.

As soon as this was ordered, several other Bills were moved to be read, &c. But the Members generally said, *No, They would proceed on nothing but the French and Popery*. So they adjourned to the afternoon, when they attended the King with their Address, at the Banqueting House in *White Hall*. Which being presented, The King Answered, That it was long and of great importance, that he would consider of it, and give them an Answer as soon as he could.

The House did nothing else but adjourn till *Monday* morn.

Monday, May 28. 1677.

The House being late, they received notice by Secretary *Coventry*, that the King expected them immediately at the *Banqueting House*.

Whether being come, The King made a Speech to them on the Subject of their Address. Which Speech to prevent mistakes, his Majesty read out of his Paper, and then delivered the same to the Speaker. And his Majesty added a few words about their *Adjournment*.

The

The Kings Speech is as followveth,

Gentlemen,

Could I have been silent, I would rather have chosen to be so, then to call to mind things so unfit for you to meddle with, as are contained in some parts of your last Addresses, wherein you have intrenched upon so undoubted a right of the Crown, that I am confident it will appear in no Age (when the Sword was drawn) that the Prerogative of making Peace and War hath been so dangerously invaded.

You do not content your selves with desiring me to enter into such Leagues, as may be for the safety of the Kingdom, but you tell me what sort of Leagues they must be, and with whom, (and as your Address is worded) it is more liable to be understood to be by Your leave, than at Your Request, that I should make such other Alliances, as I please with other of the Confederates.

Should I suffer this fundamental Power of making Peace and War to be so far invaded (though but once) as to have the manner and circumstances of Leagues prescribed to Me by Parliament, its plain that no Prince or State would any longer believe that the Sovereignty of England rests in the Crown, Nor could I think my self to signifie any more to Foreign Princes, than the empty sound of a King. Wherefore You may rest assured, that no Condition shall make me depart from, or lessen so essential a part of the Monarchy. And I am willing to believe so well of this House of Commons, that I am confident these ill Consequences are not intended by You.

These are in short the Reasons, why I can by no means approve of Your Address, and yet though you have declined to grant me that Supply which is necessary to the ends of it, I do again declare to You, That as I have done all that lay in my Power since Your last meeting; so I will still apply my self by all the means I can, to let the World see my Care both for the Security and Satisfaction of my People, although it may not be with those Advantages to them, which by Your Assurances I might have procured.

And having said this, he signified to them that they should Adjourn till the 16th. of July.

Upon hearing of this Speech read, their House is said to have been greatly appalled, both in that they were so severely Checked in his Majesties name, from whom they had been used to receive so constant Testimonies of his Royal Bounty and Affection, which they thought they had deserved, as also, because there are so many Old and fresh Precedents, of the same Nature; and if there had not, yet they were led into this by all the steps of Necessity, in duty to his Majesty and the Nation. And several of them offering therefore modestly to have spoken, they were interrupted continually by the Speaker, contesting that after the Kings pleasure signified for Adjournment, there was no further liberty of speaking. And yet it is certain, that at the same time in the Lords House, the Adjournment was in the usual Form, and upon the Question first propounded to that House, and allowed by them; All Adjournments (unless made by special Commission under his Majesties Broad Seal) being and having always been so, an Act of the Houses by their own Authority. Nevertheless, several of their Members requiring to be heard, the Speaker had the confidence, without any Question put, and of his own motion, to pronounce the House adjourned till the 16th. of July, and slept down in the middle of the floor, all the House being

being astonished at so unheard of a violation of their inherent Privilege and Constitution. And that which more amazed them afterwards was, that while none of their own transactions or addresses for the Publick Good are suffered to be Printed, but even all written Copies of them with the same care as Libels suppressed: Yet they found this seditious Speech published in the next days News Book, to mark them out to their own, and all other Nations, as refractory, disobedient Persons, that had lost all respect to his Majesty. Thus were they well rewarded for their *Idleness of perpetual Sitting, and of Acting, the Parliament* being grown to that height of contempt, as to be *Gazetted* among Run-away Servants, Lost Doggs, Strayed Horses, and Highway Robbers.

In this manner was the second meeting of this, whether Convention or Parliament, concluded: But by what Name soever it is lawful to call them, or how irregular they were in other things, yet it must be confessed, That this House or Barn of Commons, deserved commendations for having so far prevented the Establishment of Popery, by rejecting the Conspirators two Bills, intitled,

I. *An Act for farther securing the Protestant Religion by Educating the Children of the Roial Familie therein: And for the Providing for the Continuance of a Protestant Clergy.*

II. *An Act for the more effectual conviction and Prosecution of Popish Recusants.* And for having in so many Addresses applyed against the French power and progresse: And their Debats before recited upon this latter subject, do sufficiently show, that there are men of great parts among them who understand the Interest of the Nation, and as long as it is for their purpose, can prosecute it.

For who would not commend Chastity, and rail against Whoreing, while his Rival enjoys their Mistresses?

But on the other side, that poor desire of perpetuating themselves those advantages which they have swallowed, or do yet gape for, renders them so abject, that they are become a meer property to the Conspirators, and must, in order to their Continuance, do and suffer such things, so much below and contrary to the spirit of the Nation, that any honest man would swear that they were no more an *English* House of Parliament. And by this weakness of theirs it was, that the House of Peers also (as it is in contiguous buildings) yielded and gave way so far even to the shaking of the Government. For had the Commons stood firm, it had been impossible that ever two men, such as the black and white Lords, *Trerise* and *Frechwel*, though of so vast fortunes, extraordinary understanding, and so proportionable courage, should but for speaking against their sense have committed the Four Lords (not much their inferiors) and thereby brought the whole Peerage of *England* under their vassalage.

They met again at the Day appointed, the 16th. of *July*. The supposed House of Commons were so well appalled, and found themselves at such ease, under the protection of these frequent *Adjournments*, which seemed also further to confirm their *Title* to Parliament, that they quite forgot how they had been out-lawed in the *Gazette*, or if any sense of it remained, there was no opportunity to discover it. For his *Majesty* having signified by *Mr. Secretarie Coventrie* his pleasure, that there should be a further *Adjournment*, their *Mr. Seymour* (the Speaker deceased) would not suffer any man to proceed: But an honourable member requiring modestly to have the Order Read, by which they were before adjourned, he Interrupted him and the Seconder of that motion. For he had at the last meeting gained one President

of his own making for adjourning the House without question, by his own Authority, and was loath to have it discontinued, so that without more ado, like an infallible Judge, and who had the power over Counsels, he declared, *Ex Cathedra*, that they were adjourned till the third of December next. And in the same moment stamp'd down on the floor, and went forth (trampling upon, and treading under foot, I had almost said, the Privileges and usage of Parliament, but however) without shewing that decent respect, which is due to a multitude in Order, and to whom he was a *menial Servant*.

In the mean time the four Lords lay all this while in the Tower, looking perhaps to have been set free, at least of Course by Prorogation. And there was the more reason to have expected one, because the Corn Clause which deducted *Communibus Annis*, 55000*l.* out of the Kings Customs, was by the Act of Parliament to have expired.

But these frequent Adjournments left no place for Divination, but that they must rather have been calculated to give the *French* more scope for perfecting their Conquests, or to keep the Lords closer, till the Conspirators Designs were accomplished, and it is less probable that one of these was false, than that both were the true Causes. So that the Lords if they had been taken in War, might have been ransomed cheaper than they were Imprisoned. When therefore after so long patience, they saw no end of their Captivity, they began to think that the procuring of their liberty deserved almost the same care which others took to continue them in Durance, and each of them chose the Method he thought most advisable.

The Earl of *Shaftsbury* having addressed in vain for his *Majesty's* favor, resorted by *Habeas Corpus* to the Kings Bench

Bench the constant Residence of his Justice. But the Judges were more true to their Pateents than their Jurisdiction and remanded him, Sir *Thomas Jones* having done him double Justice, answering both for himself and his Brother *Twisden*, that was absent and had never heard any Argument in the case.

The Duke of *Buckingham*, the Earl of *Salisbury*, and the Lord *Wharton*, had better Fortune then he in recurring to his Majesty by a Petition, upon which they were enlarged, making use of an honourable Evasion, where no Legal Reperation could be hoped for. Ingrateful Persons may censure them for enduring no more, not considering how much they had suffered. But it is Honour enough for them to have been Confessors, nor as yet is the Earl of *Shaftsbury* a Martyr, for the *English* Liberties and the Protestant Religion, but may still live to the Envy of those that maligne him for his Constancy.

There remains now only to relate that before the meeting appointed for the third of *December* his Majesties Proclamation was Issued, signifying that he expected not the Members attendance, but that those of them about Town may *Adjourn themselves* till the fourth of *April*, 1678. Wherein it seemed not so strange, because often done before, as unfortunate that the *French* should still have so much further leisure allowed him to compleat his design upon *Flanders*, before the Nation should have the opportunity of interposing their Counsels with his Majesty (it cannot now be said) to prevent it. But these words that the House may *Adjourn themselves*, were very well received by those of the Commons who imagined themselves thereby restored to their Right, after *Master Seymours* Invasion; When in reversal of this, he probably desiring to retain a Jurisdiction, that he had twice usurped, and to add this Flower to the Crown, of his own planting.

planting. Mr. Secretary Coventry delivered a written Message from his Majesty on the third of December, of a contrary effect, though not of the same validity with the Proclamation, to wit, That the Houses *should be Adjourned* only to the 15. of January 1677. Which as soon as read, Mr. Seymour would not give leave to a worthy Member offering to speak, but abruptly, now the third time of his own authority, Adjourned them, without putting the Question, although Sir J. Finch, for once doing so in *Tertio Caroli*, was accused of high Treason; This only can be said, perhaps in his excuse. That whereas that in *Tertio Caroli* was a Parliament Legally constituted, Mr Seymour did here do as a Sheriff that disperses a riotous assembly. In this manner they are kickt from Adjournment to Adjournment, as from one stair down to another, and when they are at the bottom kickt up again, having no mind yet to go out of Doors.

And here it is a time to fix a period, if not to them, yet to this Narrative. But if neither one-Prorogation, against all the Laws in being, nor three vitious Adjournments, against all Presidents, can Dissolve them, this Parliament then is immortal, they can subsist without his Majesties Authority, and it is less dangerous to say with Captain Elsdon, so lately, *Si Rebellio evenerit in regno, non accideret fore, contra omnes tres Status, Non est Rebellio.*

Thus far hath the Conspiracy against our Religion and Government been laid open, which if true, it was more than time that it should be discovered, but if any thing therein have been falsely suggested the disproving of it in any particular will be a courtesy both to the Publick and to the Re-lator; who would be glad to have the World convinced of the contrary, though to the prejudice of his own reputation. But so far it is from this, that it is rather impossible for

for any observing man to read without making his own farther remarks of the same nature, and adding a supplement of most passages which are here but imperfectly toucht. Yet some perhaps may *Object*, as if the assistance given to *France* were all along *invidiously aggravated*, whereas there have been and are, considerable numbers likewise of his Majesties Subjects in the Service of *Holland*, which hath not been mentioned.

But in answer to that, it is well known through what difficulty and hardship they passed thither, escaping hence over, like so many *Malefactors*; and since they are there, such care hath been taken to make them as serviceable as others to the Design, that of those three *Regiments*, two, if not the third also, have been new modelled under Popish Officers, and the Protestants displaced. Yet had the *Relator* made that voluntary Omission in partiality to his *Argument*, he hath abundantly recompensed in sparing so many Instances on the other side which made to his purpose; The abandoning his Majesties own *Nephew* for so many years in compliance with His and Our Nations Enemies, the further particulars of the *French* Depradations and Cruelties exercised at Sea upon his Majesties Subjects, and to this day continued and tollerated without reparation; Their notorious Treacheries and Insolencies, more especially relating to his Majesties affairs. These things abroad, which were capable of being illustrated by many former and fresh Examples. At home, the constant irregularities and injustice from Term to Term, of those that administer the Judicature betwixt his Majesty and his People.

The *Scrutinie* all over the Kingdom, to find out men of *Arbitrary Principles*, that will *Bow the knee to Baal*, in order to their promotion to all Publick Commissions and Employments; and the disgracing on the contrary and displacing of such as yet dare in so universal a depravation be honest and

and faithful in their Trust and Offices. The defection of considerable persons both *Male* and *Female* to the *Papish Religion*, as if they entred by Couples clean and unclean into the *Ark* of that Church, not more in order to their salvation, than for their temporal safety. The state of the Kingdom of *Ireland*, which would require a whole Volume to represent it. The tendency of all affairs and Councils in this Nation towards a *Revolution*. And (by the great Civility and Foresight of his Holyness) an *English* Cardinal now for several years prepared like Cardinal *Poole* to give us *Absolution*, *Benediction*, and receive us into *Apostolical Obedience*.

It is now come to the fourth Act, and the next Scene that opens may be *Rome* or *Paris*, yet men sit by, like idle Spectators, and still give money towards their own *Tragedy*. It is true, that by his Majesty and the Churches care, under Gods special providence, the Conspiracy hath received frequent disappointments. But it is here as in Gaming, where though the Cheat may lose for a while, to the Skill or good fortune of a fairer Player, and sometimes on purpose to draw him in deeper, yet the false Dice must at the long run Carry it, unless discovered, and when it comes once to a great Stake, will Infallibly Sweep the Table:

If the Relator had extended all these Articles in their particular Instances, with several other Heads, which out of Respect he forbore to enumerate, it is evident there was matter sufficient to have further accused his Subjects. And nevertheless, he foresees that he shall on both hands be blamed for pursuing this method. Some on the one side will expect, that the very Persons should have been named, whereas he only gives evidence to the Fact, and leaves the malefactors to those who have the power of inquiry: It was his design indeed to give Information, but not to turn Informer. That these to whom he hath only

a publick enmity, no private animosity, might have the privilege of Statesmen, to repent at the last hour, and by one signal Action to expiate all their former misdemeanours. But if any one delight in the Chase, he is an ill Woodman that knows not the size of the Beast by the proportion of his Excrement.

On the other hand, some will represent his discourse (as they do all Books that tend to detect their Conspiracy) against his Majesty and the Kingdom, as if it too were written against the Government. For now of late, as soon as any man is gotten into publick employment by ill Acts and by worle continues it, he if it please the Fates, is thenceforward the Government, and by being Criminal, pretends to be sacred.

These are, themselves, the men who are the Living Libells against the Government, and who (whereas the Law discharges the Prince upon his Ministers) do if in danger of being Questioned, plead or rather Impeach his Authority in their own Justification.

Yea, so impudent is their ingratitude, that as they intitle him to their Crimes, so they arrogate to themselves his Virtues, challenging whatsoever is well done, and is the pure emanation of his *Royal Goodness*, to have proceeded from their Influence. Objecting thereby his Majesty, if it were possible, to the hatred and interposing as in them lies, betwixt the love of his People. being conscious to themselves how inconsiderable they'd be under any good Government, but for their notorious wickedness, they have no other way of subsistence but by nourishing suspicion betwixt a most loyal People and most gracious Sovereign.

But this Book, though of an extraordinary nature,
case required, and however it may be calumniated by
rebellious persons, was written with no other intent than
meer Fidelity and Service to his Majesty, and God for
that it should have any other effect, than *That the means*
all Iniquity and of Flatterers may be stopped, and that his Ma-
jesty having discerned the Disease, may with his Healing
Touch apply the Remedy. For so far is the Relator him-
self from any sinister surmise of his Majesty, or from sug-
gesting it to others, that he acknowledges, if it were in
for *Cæsar's* Wife to be free, much more is *Cæsar* himself from
all Crime and Suspicion. Let us therefore conclude with our
own Common Devotions, *From all Privy Conspiracy, &c.*

Good Lord Deliver us.

F I N I S.